



Finalization of Emergency Amendments to Connector Program Regulations (VOTE)

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Overview

Following emergency amendments to the Health Connector's Program regulations in August, today staff request that the Board vote to make those amendments permanent and satisfy the emergency amendment requirements.

- The Fiscal Year 2024 Massachusetts budget directed the Health Connector to implement a two-year pilot program to extend eligibility for premium assistance and cost-sharing reductions to individuals between 300 and 500 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) beginning January 1, 2024
- On August 14, 2023, the Health Connector Board of Directors voted to amend Health Connector Program regulations at 956 CMR 12.00 to expand eligibility for the ConnectorCare program to include individuals between 300 and 500 percent FPL to support the implementation of the pilot program
- After completing the required administrative procedures, including a public hearing, today, staff seek a Board vote to approve finalization of these emergency regulation amendments without further changes

This presentation will cover:

1. Emergency Regulation Process and Public Hearing
2. Board vote

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Emergency Regulation Process and Public Hearing

Emergency Regulation Amendment Process for Health Connector Program Regulations

The January 1, 2024 start date for the pilot program required immediate action to create the program by amending the Health Connector regulations at 956 CMR 12.00.

- The state's Administrative Procedures Act permits an emergency regulation process, which allows for immediate amendment of the Health Connector Program regulations to create the pilot
- Amendments took effect when filed with the Secretary of State, which occurred on August 12, 2023, and remain in effect for 3 months
- During that three-month period, the Health Connector was required hold a public hearing on the amendments, and then return to the Board to vote on whether to make additional changes, or leave the regulations as amended

Public Hearing and Next Steps

On October 25, 2023, the Health Connector held a public hearing via Zoom to receive comments regarding the emergency regulation amendments. Written comments were also accepted.

- No members of the public attended the public hearing to provide testimony
- No one submitted written comments on the regulation amendments

Because the Health Connector received no comments on the regulation amendments, staff recommend that no additional changes be made to the regulations.

- To complete the emergency regulation process, the Health Connector must now file a notice of compliance with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, finalizing the emergency amendments
- A Board vote is required to formalize the decision to make no further changes to the regulations



Board Vote

Vote

Health Connector staff recommend that the Board vote to finalize the emergency amendment of the regulations at 956 CMR 12.00 without additional changes, as described in this presentation.