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H.B. 212
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Reps. Fraizer and Liston

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SUMMARY

- Extends the Children with Medical Handicaps Program age limit from 21 to 26 by July 1, 2026, by increasing the age limit by one year each year beginning in 2022.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Children with Medical Handicaps Program eligibility

Ohio's Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH), is administered by the Department of Health and serves families of children and young adults with special health care needs, including AIDS, hearing loss, cancer, juvenile arthritis, cerebral palsy, metabolic disorders, cleft lip/palate, severe vision disorders, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, diabetes, spina bifida, scoliosis, congenital heart disease, hemophilia, and chronic lung disease.

The CMH Program has three core components:

- Diagnostic – An individual under age 21 who meets medical criteria, regardless of income, may receive services from CMH-approved providers for up to six months to diagnose or rule out a special health care need or establish a plan of care.
- Treatment – An individual under age 21 who meets both medical and financial criteria may receive treatment from CMH-approved providers for an eligible condition.
- Service coordination – The family of an individual under age 21 who meets medical criteria, regardless of income, may receive assistance locating and coordinating services for the individual with the medical diagnosis.

The bill requires the Director of Health to increase the maximum age of CMH participants by establishing eligibility requirements that progressively increase the maximum age of an individual that can be served by the program. Every year on the first day of July from 2022 to 2026, the Director's rules must increase the age limit by one year. The final increase, on

July 1, 2026, allows individuals under the age of 26 to participate. This annual increase applies to all three components of the CMH Program.¹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-16-21

H0212-I-134/ks

¹ R.C. 3701.021 and 3701.023, conforming changes in R.C. 3701.022.