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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 600
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Aging to expand to the following counties the existing Medicaid component known as the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE): Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Lorain, Lucas, and Summit.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

PACE program expansion

The bill requires the Department of Aging to expand an existing Medicaid component known as the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). PACE is a managed care model that provides participants with needed health care, medical care, and ancillary services in acute, sub-acute, institutional, and community settings. Currently, Ohio's only PACE site is in Cleveland.¹

Expansion locations

Under the bill, within 90 days of the bill's effective date, the Department must issue a request for proposals (RFP) from entities interested in becoming PACE organizations for service areas in the counties, or contiguous zip codes within the counties, or extending from the counties, of: Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Lorain, Lucas, and Summit. Proposals must be submitted to the Department within 90 days of the RFP.²

¹ [PACE](#), which may be accessed by conducting a search for "PACE" on the Ohio Department of Aging's website: aging.ohio.gov.

² R.C. 173.50(C).

Entity eligibility

To be eligible for approval to become a PACE organization, an entity must meet all of the following:³

- Be, or be owned by, a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity or a for-profit entity;
- Provide a feasibility study of its proposed service area to the Department within 90 days after providing the Department with a letter of intent to apply;
- Have a current, valid Medicaid provider agreement or be eligible to enter into a provider agreement;
- Meet all federal requirements applicable to PACE program providers;
- Have experience providing health care services to frail older adults, and demonstrate that each member of the entity's staff complies with federal PACE regulations applicable to direct care staff;
- Have a facility suitable to be a PACE center, or plans to acquire, build, or expand a facility suitable to be a PACE center prior to beginning services;
- Any additional requirements established in rules.

Department and CMS approval; provision of services

The Department must review all proposals submitted and, within 180 days after the RFP was issued, determine which entity it approves to become a PACE organization for each of the counties identified above.⁴ The Department must provide each approved entity with a statement of assurances to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), indicating that the Department considers the entity to be qualified and is willing to enter into a PACE agreement with the entity.⁵

Each entity approved by the Department must apply to CMS to become a PACE organization.⁶ Each entity approved by both the Department and CMS must begin providing services to PACE participants within two years, so long as adequate federal financial participation is available.⁷ A PACE organization and the Department must make eligibility determinations in accordance with federal regulations for individuals seeking to enroll in the PACE program.⁸

³ R.C. 173.50(D).

⁴ R.C. 173.50(E).

⁵ R.C. 173.50(F).

⁶ R.C. 173.50(G).

⁷ R.C. 173.50(H).

⁸ R.C. 173.50(I).

So long as a PACE organization is providing access to PACE program services for all eligible individuals in the area served by the PACE organization, the Department may not authorize any other organization to serve as a PACE organization for that area. For purposes of this limitation, an individual is considered to have access to PACE program services if there is a PACE organization with an adult day health center, or approved alternative care setting, within a 45-minute drive of the individual's residence.⁹

Home First component

Regarding the Home First component of the PACE program, which is established under existing law, the bill eliminates various references to documentation being "in writing."¹⁰

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$50 million to fund the PACE program expansion.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-15-22

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⁹ R.C. 173.50(J).

¹⁰ R.C. 173.501.