

HB 638-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0404  
01/04

HOUSE BILL

**638-FN-A**

AN ACT

reestablishing the catastrophic illness program and making an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Barry, Hills 21; Rep. Phillips, Ches 16; Sen. Woodburn, Dist 1

COMMITTEE:

Finance

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ANALYSIS

This bill reestablishes the catastrophic illness program which was repealed in 2011. The bill makes an appropriation for the purposes of the bill.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen*

AN ACT reestablishing the catastrophic illness program and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 New Chapter; Catastrophic Illness Program. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 137-L the  
2 following new chapter:

3 CHAPTER 137-M

4 CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS PROGRAM

5 137-M:1 Purpose. The purpose of this program is to assist residents of the state suffering from  
6 catastrophic illnesses in gaining access to needed diagnostic, curative, and rehabilitative health  
7 services when these individuals are unable to pay the entire cost of the medical care and treatment  
8 required on a continuing basis, despite the existence of various types of hospital and medical  
9 insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other governmental assistance programs and private charitable  
10 assistance programs.

11 137-M:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

12 I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of health and human services.

13 II. "Catastrophic illness" means cancer, hemophilia, end-stage renal disease, spinal cord  
14 injury, cystic fibrosis, or multiple sclerosis, the treatment of which requires extensive medical care  
15 such as hospitalization, medication, diagnostic evaluation, surgery, dialysis, therapy, or other  
16 associated medical expenses such as transportation to and from medical facilities.

17 III. "Eligible individual" means any resident of the state of New Hampshire suffering from a  
18 catastrophic illness.

19 IV. "Authorized services" means services eligible for payment under the catastrophic illness  
20 program fund.

21 137-M:3 Catastrophic Illness Program. There is hereby established the catastrophic illness  
22 program within the department of health and human services, to carry out the purposes of this  
23 chapter.

24 137-M:4 Catastrophic Illness Program Fund. There is hereby established the catastrophic  
25 illness program fund within the department of health and human services, which shall be under the  
26 control of the commissioner. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the  
27 department for the purposes of this chapter.

28 137-M:5 Duties of the Commissioner.

29 I. The commissioner shall make payments from the catastrophic illness program fund for  
30 authorized services provided to eligible individuals who qualify for assistance under this chapter;

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1 provided that no payment shall be made to eligible individuals who are able to pay, in whole, for  
2 authorized services through hospital or medical insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or other government  
3 assistance programs or private charitable assistance programs.

4 II. The commissioner shall issue and deliver a report to the governor and council and to the  
5 general court on or before January 15 of each odd numbered year as to the types of assistance  
6 granted under the catastrophic illness program fund and as to the necessity to continue or expand  
7 the catastrophic illness program; provided, however, that the names of individuals who receive  
8 assistance under the catastrophic illness program shall not be made public.

9 137-M:6 Payments From Patient. In administering the catastrophic illness program, the  
10 commissioner shall require that an eligible individual suffering from a catastrophic illness or the  
11 person liable for the debts of that individual make payments as may be commensurate with their  
12 financial capacity; provided that no payment shall be required if the commissioner determines that  
13 the eligible individual is indigent.

14 2 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; Catastrophic Illness Program Fund. Amend RSA  
15 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (326) the following new subparagraph:

16 (327) Moneys deposited in the catastrophic illness program fund, established in RSA  
17 137-M:4.

18 3 Appropriation. The sum of \$1 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human  
19 services for the biennium ending June 30, 2017 for the purposes of reestablishing the catastrophic  
20 illness program set forth in section 1 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for  
21 said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

22 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 638-FN-A FISCAL NOTE**

AN ACT reestablishing the catastrophic illness program and making an appropriation therefor.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department of Health and Human Services states this bill, **as introduced**, will increase state expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2016 and each year thereafter. There will be no fiscal impact on state, county and local revenue, or county and local expenditures.

This bill appropriates \$1 from the state general fund to the Department of Health and Human Services for the biennium year ending June 30, 2017 for the purpose of this act.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Department states this bill would re-establish the catastrophic illness program, a program that assists individuals suffering from a catastrophic illness including cancer, hemophilia, end stage renal disease, spinal cord injury, cystic fibrosis and multiple sclerosis. The bill requires the commissioner to produce a bi-annual report on the program. The Department states the catastrophic illness program ended after FY 2011. During the final two years of operation, program expenditures were \$107,066 in FY 2010, and \$122,291 in FY 2011. The Department has no data on the number of individuals who would currently be eligible for the program. The Department assumes it would need to hire a Business Administrator I and projects the costs of the position as follows –

	<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2017</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>
Salary (LG21)	\$40,170	\$41,808	\$43,602	\$45,377
Benefits	\$24,801	\$26,200	\$27,702	\$29,273
Total Salary and Benefits	\$64,971	\$68,008	\$71,304	\$74,650
Other Expenses				
Current Expenses	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Equipment	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Space	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Total Other Expenses:	\$2,350	\$350	\$350	\$350
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$67,321</b>	<b>\$68,358</b>	<b>\$71,654</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

