**** 69th Legislature 2025

1	SENATE BILL NO. 522		
2	INTRODUCED BY C. POPE		
3			
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MEDICAID LAWS TO REDUCE OR		
5	ELIMINATE WAITING LISTS FOR COVERED SERVICES; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT		
6	INITIATIVES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE WAITING LISTS; PRIORITIZING THE REDUCTION OR		
7	ELIMINATION OF WAITING LISTS FOR CERTAIN SERVICES; ESTABLISHING REPORTING		
8	REQUIREMENTS; AND PROVIDING A DEFINITION."		
9			
10	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
11			
12	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Eliminate or reduce waiting lists for covered services. (1) The		
13	department shall implement administrative, programmatic, and funding initiatives to reduce or eliminate waiting		
14	lists for services covered under the Montana medicaid program.		
15	(2)	Initiatives may include:	
16	(a)	applying for medicaid waivers, amendments to existing medicaid waivers, or state plan	
17	amendments;		
18	(b)	recalculating reimbursement rates;	
19	(c)	providing add-on rates for services with waiting lists; and	
20	(d)	any additional initiatives that comply with federal policy.	
21	(3)	The department shall prioritize the reduction or elimination of waiting lists for the following types	
22	of services:		
23	(a)	senior and long-term care;	
24	(b)	behavioral health;	
25	(c)	dental services;	
26	(d)	family education and support services; and	
27	(e)	home-based and community-based services provided through the developmental disabilities	
28	program's 0208 medicaid waiver.		



69th Legislature 2025

1	(4)	The department shall provide an annual report to the legislature, in accordance with 5-11-210,	
2	detailing:		
3	(a)	each waiting list for a covered service, including the number of people on the waiting list each	
4	month;		
5	(b)	efforts underway by the department to reduce or eliminate the waiting list; and	
6	(c)	the date the department expects the waiting list to be eliminated.	
7	(5)	For the purposes of this section, "waiting list" means a list of persons enrolled or presumptively	
8	enrolled in the	Montana medicaid program who are eligible for a service but cannot receive that service in 90 or	
9	fewer days due to a lack of funding, available providers, enrollment slots, or other service supply issues.		
10			
11	<u>NEW S</u>	SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an	
12	integral part of	Title 53, chapter 6, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, apply to [section 1].	
13		- END -	