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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- HEALTH CARE FOR FAMILIES

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, Crowley, Sosnowski, Pichardo, and Metts

Date Introduced: March 05, 2015

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 40-8.4 of the General Laws entitled "Health Care For Families" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **40-8.4-4.1. Eligibility for medicare savings programs. – Notwithstanding the**  
4 **provisions of any general or public law to the contrary, the secretary of the executive office of**  
5 **health and human services shall increase income disregards used to determine eligibility by the**  
6 **department of human services for the federal qualified Medicare beneficiary, the specified low-**  
7 **income Medicare beneficiary and the qualifying individual programs, administered in accordance**  
8 **with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(p), by an amount that equalizes the income levels used**  
9 **to determine eligibility for said programs to income levels at or below one hundred eighty-five**  
10 **percent (185%) of the federal poverty level. Provided, further, the secretary of the executive**  
11 **office of health and human services shall not apply an asset test for eligibility under the Medicare**  
12 **savings program and shall submit any Medicaid state plan amendment necessary to implement**  
13 **the provisions of this section.**

14           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- HEALTH CARE FOR FAMILIES

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1           This act would expand the income disregards or other methodology for parents or relative  
2 caretakers eligible for medical assistance under this chapter to income levels that are below one  
3 hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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