SB 313: AN ACT reforming New Hampshire’s Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program

History/Context:
NH first passed Medicaid Expansion to provide coverage for adults 18-65 with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2014. This program was reauthorized in 2016. However, without another reauthorization the program is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2018. Since its passage, an additional 125,000 NH residents have secured health care coverage under its provisions; with 50,000 individuals currently enrolled in the program. The reauthorized Medicaid program will be called: NH Granite Advantage Healthcare Program.

A 15-member Commission to Evaluate the Effectiveness and Future of the Premium Assistance Program resulted in 5 recommendations.
- Extend program for 5 years.
- Shift insured from Premium Assistance Plan (PAP), using the ACA healthcare exchanges, to Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO).
- Increase provider reimbursement rates for behavioral health services, but not until 2019 [a one year delay from the Commission’s recommendation.]
- Insure no lapse in coverage as insured are transitioned from PAP to MCO programs
- Includes a work requirement for able body adults, with waivers for primary caregivers of preschool aged and disabled children [Not a Commission recommendation.]

Does not include a clear “pay for” provision. (Prepared by Joan Widmer, MS, MSBA, RN, CEN)

NHNA’s Commission on Government Affairs is in favor of the passage of a Medicaid Expansion Reauthorization.

This bill was released on February 15, 2018. Joan Widmer, Nurse Executive Director, testified in support of this bill at the public hearing held on February 20, 2018.

Next week the Senate will hold a joint hearing of the Senate Finance and Health & Human Services Committees to discuss bill. This hearing is expected to run from March 5 to March 7, with amendments to be proposed and discussed on the second two days. The anticipated full Senate vote is for the following week.

On March 8, 2018 this bill passed in the Senate (17:7) and moved to the House.

A public hearing on this bill is scheduled for March 20, 2018 at 10:00 am in the State House Representatives Hall.

Joan Widmer, Nurse Executive Director, testified at the public hearing held on March 20, 2018. This bill will be in executive session on March 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm in LOB 205.
The Senate passed this bill with Amendment on March 29, 2018 (21:0). Here is a link to this amendment: #2018-1282h. This bill will now move to the House for consideration.

On April 5, 2018 the House floor voted this bill ought to pass (222:125). This bill now moves to the House Committee on Finance; a work session of the Committee is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 1:15 pm in LOB 210-211.

A work session of the Senate Finance Committee is scheduled for April 24, 2018 at 11:00 am in LOB 210-211.

A House floor vote is scheduled for May 2, 2018. There is a Medicaid Expansion support rally on May 2, 2018 at 8:00 am on the State House Lawn.

There is a Medicaid Expansion Support Rally on May 2, 2018 at 8:00 am on the State House Lawn. Please consider joining this event, free blue scrubs are available for nurses, but be sure to RSVP via this link: bit.ly/MedExRally.

On May 3, 2018 this bill passed in the House (303:29). It now moves back to the Senate for concurrence.

On May 10, 2018 the Senate voted to concur with House amendment on this bill (16:6) (see amendment here: #2018-1769h).

On May 24, 2018 this bill was ordered enrolled with amendment (#2018-2086e), bill is eligible for Governor.

On June 29, 2018, Governor Sununu signed this bill into law, Chaptered Law 0342.