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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 581
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lett and Odioso

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SUMMARY

- When determining eligibility for the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities Program or the program referred to as Ohio WorkAbility, specifies that \$20,000 of an individual's income that is disregarded may be earned income, unearned income, or a combination thereof.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Income disregard for individuals with disabilities

Under federal law, states have the option of extending Medicaid eligibility to certain disabled individuals who are employed.¹ In Ohio, one such program is known as the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD). Under federal law, the MBIWD eligibility group includes certain disabled individuals under the age of 65.

Another federal option permits states to extend Medicaid eligibility to disabled individuals who are employed, but does not include an age restriction.² In Ohio this program is known as the Ohio WorkAbility Program. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly extended Medicaid coverage to individuals in the Ohio WorkAbility group. The act clarified that it was the General Assembly's intent to cover individuals in the Ohio WorkAbility Program who are age 65 or older in a manner that is consistent with Medicaid coverage for individuals in the MBIWD Program, as permitted under federal guidance and regulations.³

¹ 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV) and (XVI).

² 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIII).

³ R.C. 5163.063, not in the bill.

Under current law, \$20,000 of an individual's earned income is disregarded when determining eligibility for MBIWD or Ohio WorkAbility. The bill specifies that this \$20,000 amount may be earned income, unearned income, or a combination thereof.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-10-25

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⁴ R.C. 5163.093.