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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; ALLOWING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ADMINISTER A PROGRAM OF MEDICAL OR PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN INELIGIBLE FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 27-2-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 376, Section 16, as amended) is amended to read:

"27-2-12. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.--

A. Consistent with the federal act and subject to the appropriation and availability of federal and state funds, the medical assistance division of the department may by rule provide medical assistance, including the services of licensed doctors of oriental medicine, licensed chiropractic physicians and licensed dental hygienists in collaborating practice, to persons eligible for public assistance programs under the federal act.

B. Subject to appropriation and availability of federal, state or other funds received by the state from public or private grants or donations, the medical assistance division of the department may by rule provide medical assistance, including assistance in the payment of premiums for medical or long-term care insurance, to children up to the age of twelve if not part of a sibling group; children up

1 to the age of eighteen if part of a sibling group that  
2 includes a child up to the age of twelve; and pregnant women  
3 who are residents of the state of New Mexico and who are  
4 ineligible for public assistance under the federal act. The  
5 department, in implementing the provisions of this  
6 subsection, shall:

7 (1) establish rules that encourage pregnant  
8 women to participate in prenatal care; and

9 (2) not provide a benefit package that  
10 exceeds the benefit package provided to state employees."

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