



POLICY ALERT

Center for Public Policy Priorities | 900 Lydia Street Austin, Texas 78702 PH: 512.320.0222/FAX: 512.320.0227 www.cppp.org

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Contact: Anne Dunkelberg, dunkelberg@cppp.org

Update on CHIP Bills

House conferees on HB 109 will be Dawnna Dukes, Susan King, John Davis, Bryan Hughes, Sylvester Turner. Senate members will be named soon.

The presence of two inconsistent sets of estimates related to the Senate and House versions of HB 109 may have created some confusion. The official LBB numbers used for “scoring” the bills for the budget are compared below with HHSC agency estimates.

- HB 1 (the budget) authorizes up to \$89.5 million for CHIP restoration, related to the fiscal note on the original filed bill. However, HB 15 (supplemental appropriations bill) reduces CHIP appropriations by \$15.7 million GR, for a net available of \$73.8 million GR. The budget still includes \$10 million more than needed for Senate bill.
- The LBB fiscal note estimates for the Senate’s version of HB 109, posted May 20, differ from the HHSC estimates provided to Legislators at the Thursday May 17 Senate Finance Committee hearing on HB 109.
- HHSC appears to predict higher caseload impact from both versions of the bill than LBB. HB 109 as passed by the House was originally scored by LBB as covering 102,224 additional children in 2009, but in the May 17 document HHSC estimates the House bill would cover nearly 134,997 additional children.
- The LBB projects a higher cost for the Senate bill than the HHSC agency estimates distributed at the Thursday May 17 Senate Finance Committee hearing, but a lower enrollment number.
- Again, the LBB’s official numbers determine how the bill is be “scored” as a cost to the state budget.

HB 109: Comparison of HHSC and LBB Cost and Caseload Numbers						
Version	HHSC Caseload Estimate		HHSC Biennial Cost, GR (Net Cost with Cost Sharing Revenue)	LBB Caseload Estimate		LBB Biennial Cost estimate
	FY 2008	FY 2009		FY 2008	FY 2009	
H.B. 109, as engrossed	59,664	134,997	\$78,266,494 (\$73,594,634)	68,537	102,224	\$78,055,438
H.B. 109, Senate Committee Substitute	52,417	101,646	\$62,448,013 (\$58,750,495)	60,212	76,970	\$63,817,138
Caseload and Cost Differences	7,247	33,351	\$15,818,481 (\$14,844,139)	8,325	26,354	\$14,238,300