



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: BRIAN MCCORMICK**  
Regulatory and Manual Section Manager  
Department of Medical Assistance Services

**FROM: ELIZABETH A. MCDONALD**  
Special Counsel to DMAS

**DATE: March 7, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Emergency Regulation concerning “Medicaid Works” a Medicaid Buy-In Program**

I have reviewed the attached emergency regulations that would implement a Medicaid Buy-In program.

Based on that review, it is this Office’s view that the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (“DMAS”), acting on behalf of the Board of Medical Assistance Services pursuant to Va. Code § 32.1-324, has the authority to promulgate these regulations, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act and has not exceeded that authority.

The authority for this emergency action is found in Va. Code § 2.2-4011, which provides that an “emergency situation” is a “situation in which Virginia statutory law, the Virginia appropriation act, or federal law requires that a regulation shall be effective in 280 days or less from its enactment...” The amendments to the regulations will enable the Director, in lieu of the Board of Medical Assistance Services, to comply with Item

302 X of the 2006 Appropriation Act which directs DMAS to fully implement a Medicaid Buy-In program no later than January 1, 2007.<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly, with the prior approval of the Governor, these regulations will qualify for the “emergency” exemption from Article 2 requirements. Please be advised, however, that under Va. Code § 2.2-4011(A), the Department must state in writing the nature of and necessity for such emergency action, and this appears to have been accomplished in the “Agency Background Document.” In addition, the regulations shall be effective for no more than twelve months. As the Department intends to continue regulating the subject matter governed by this emergency regulation beyond 12 months, it will be necessary to replace these emergency regulations with regulations duly promulgated under Article 2 of the APA. A Notice of Intended Regulatory Action relating to the proposed replacement regulations must be filed with the Registrar within 60 days of the effective date of the emergency regulations (and it appears that this has been done). The proposed replacement regulations must be filed with the Registrar within 180 days after the effective date of the emergency regulations.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 786-3890.

cc: Kim F. Piner  
Senior Assistant Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> The program was not implemented by this time as DMAS’ original program design was disapproved by the federal Medicaid authority. Federal approval was received in late December 2006 based upon DMAS’ submitted revised program.