

**Boilerplate Report – Ticket to Work
Section 1505 of PA 519 of 2002**

Section 1505 of Public Act 519 of 2002 – The Fiscal Year 2003 Department of Community Health Budget – requires the department to work with the department of career development to explore options under the federal Ticket to Work statute, and report to the legislature on options to extend health care coverage for working disabled persons under the law by October 1, 2002.

On July 2, 2003, Governor Granholm signed Public Acts 32 and 33 - “Freedom to Work” legislation - which allows persons with disabilities to work and save for retirement without fear of losing their Medicaid coverage. Specifically, the act permits Medicaid enrollees with disabilities to earn up to their potential, accumulate assets up to \$75,000 and save without limitation for their retirement, ITA and 401k Accounts. The state will collect premiums on a sliding scale based on annual income for those recipients who earn more than the current Medicaid cut-off point of \$22,500. The premiums will be used to offset the state’s cost of providing Medicaid benefits for those individuals eligible under the law. There are currently five persons enrolled in the program.

To qualify, a person must be receiving Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or meets the qualifications for these programs except for excess earnings above the federal guidelines; between the ages of 16 and 54; currently a Medicaid recipient; unearned income does not exceed the federal poverty guidelines; and currently employed. Those qualifying could do the following and not lose their Medicaid eligibility: earn income in excess of the existing eligibility guidelines (unearned income would continue to be limited to 100% of the federal poverty guidelines; accumulate nonexcludable assets valued up to \$75,000; accumulate savings in retirement and IRAs without limits, and; be permitted to have breaks in employment up to 24 months due to medical necessity or involuntary layoff.