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HOUSE BILL 451 By
Brown

SENATE BILL 1492
By Crutchfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5,
Part 1, relative to medical assistance for certain senior
citizens.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-106, is amended by adding the
following as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() The commissioner of health may establish, as an administrative component of
TennCare, a separate sub-program to purchase Medicare supplemental insurance
coverage or provide other medical assistance for any senior citizen of this state who is
financially unable to purchase Medicare supplemental insurance coverage in the private
market but who, nonetheless, remains ineligible for Medicaid assistance primarily due to
ownership of, or equity in, residential property serving as the citizen's principal place of
residence. During any fiscal year, implementation of the sub-program shall be subject
to, and restricted by, the amount of funding specifically provided for such purpose within
the state's annual appropriation act. In determining eligibility standards for participation,
the commissioner shall consult with the commission on aging and shall give priority
according to degree of financial and medical hardship. The provisions of this subsection
shall not be construed to constitute or extend an entitlement for any participant or other
person. The provisions of this subsection shall be implemented only to the extent that it
is determined by the commissioner to be consistent with the terms, conditions and

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eligibility criteria of the TennCare waiver as approved by the United States department of health and human services.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.

