

10,000 more kids could get government-sponsored health insurance

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A state audit suggests 10,000 more children could get government-sponsored health insurance- if the state changed the way it processes medical claims.

According to State Auditor Les Merritt's report, claims could be processed cheaper by the state Department of Health and Human Services than by the state employee health plan office- saving 8.4 million a year for medical bills and \$7.5 million prescription costs. 114,000 children have the coverage. The insurance covers many low-income children whose families do not qualify for Medicaid- and cannot buy insurance. State health officials seek to change the law to allow bills to be processed by the health insurance- freeing up to 16 million dollars.