

## **State seeks to lift ban on checking TennCare status for thousands**

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The state plans to ask a federal judge to lift a ban on checking the TennCare eligibility of about 154,000 people currently on the rolls of the state's expanded Medicaid program.

Under the 1987 ruling, the state can't verify the eligibility of the enrollees who at one time qualified for a federal cash assistance program for the needy called Supplemental Security Income, or SSI.

TennCare officials estimate that at least 1,100 of the people protected by the ruling are current prison inmates, while another 5,000 may have moved out of state. It's unclear how many others might be affected if the ban is lifted.

Gov. Phil Bredesen in 2005 cut about 170,000 adults from TennCare amid out-of-control costs.