

AB 1453 (Monning) – Essential Health Benefits

Introduced January 5, 2012, Amended April 17, 2012

This bill sets minimum standards for "essential health benefits" (EHB)s in California in response to guidance from the federal Health and Human Services Agency guidance issued pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The author indicates that with this guidance in mind, the choice of the benchmark plan is based on the following principles:

- a) Recognition of the importance of existing state mandated benefits and incorporation of as many state mandates as possible.
- b) Protection of California's commitment to reproductive services.
- c) Embracing the consumer oriented regulatory framework in place at the DMHC.
- d) Maintaining affordability for consumers.

Through a process of comparison to these principles, other available plan choices were eliminated and the Kaiser Small Group HMO was chosen.

The author believes, based on the information available, the Kaiser Small Group HMO represents the best benchmark plan choice for Californians. The Kaiser Small Group HMO covers all of California's mandates and includes vision exams. The contract covers reproductive services, is licensed at DMHC as a Knox-Keene plan with corresponding consumer protections, and while the cost differentials among all of the options are not significant, this plan falls in the middle.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1453

Introduced by Assembly Member Monning

January 5, 2012

An act to add Section 1367.005 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10112.27 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1453, as amended, Monning. Essential health benefits.

Commencing January 1, 2014, existing law, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), requires a health insurance issuer that offers coverage in the small group or individual market to ensure that such coverage includes the essential health benefits package, as defined. PPACA requires each state to, by January 1, 2014, establish an American Health Benefit Exchange that facilitates the purchase of qualified health plans by qualified individuals and qualified small employers. PPACA defines a qualified health plan as a plan that, among other requirements, provides the essential health benefits package. Existing state law creates the California Health Benefit Exchange (the Exchange) to facilitate the purchase of qualified health plans by qualified individuals and qualified small employers by January 1, 2014.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful

violation of the act a crime. Existing law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to cover various benefits.

This bill would require an individual or small group health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, to cover essential health benefits, which would be defined to include the benefits and services covered by particular plans. The bill would specify that this provision applies regardless of whether the contract or policy is offered inside or outside the Exchange but would provide that it does not apply to grandfathered plans or plans that offer excepted benefits, as specified. The bill would prohibit a health care service plan or health insurer, when offering, issuing, selling, or marketing a plan contract or policy, from indicating or implying that the contract or policy covers essential health benefits unless the contract or policy covers essential health benefits as provided in the bill.

Because a willful violation of the bill's provisions with respect to health care service plans would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Commencing January 1, 2014, the federal Patient Protection
- 4 and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires a health insurance
- 5 issuer that offers coverage to small employers or individuals, both
- 6 inside and outside of an American Health Benefit Exchange, with
- 7 the exception of grandfathered plans, to provide minimum coverage
- 8 that includes essential health benefits, as defined.
- 9 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to comply with federal law
- 10 and consistently implement the essential health benefits provisions

1 of PPACA and related federal guidance and regulations, by
2 adopting the uniform minimum essential benefits requirement in
3 state-regulated health care coverage regardless of whether the
4 policy or contract is regulated by the Department of Managed
5 Health Care or the Department of Insurance and regardless of
6 whether the policy or contract is offered to individuals or small
7 employers inside or outside of the California Health Benefit
8 Exchange.

9 SEC. 2. Section 1367.005 is added to the Health and Safety
10 Code, to read:

11 1367.005. (a) An individual or small group health care service
12 plan contract issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1,
13 2014, shall, at a minimum, include coverage for essential health
14 benefits. For purposes of this section, “essential health benefits”
15 means all of the following:

16 (1) (A) The benefits and services covered by the Kaiser Small
17 Group HMO plan contract (product number 40513CA035) as of
18 ~~December 31, 2011, this contract was offered during the first~~
19 ~~quarter of 2012~~, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

20 (i) The items and services covered by the plan contract within
21 the categories identified in subsection (b) of Section 1302 of
22 PPACA, including, but not limited to, ambulatory patient services,
23 emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care,
24 mental health and substance use disorder services, including
25 behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and
26 habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive
27 and wellness services and chronic disease management, and
28 pediatric vision care.

29 ~~(ii) The items and services covered by the plan contract within~~
30 ~~the following categories: acupuncture services, chiropractic~~
31 ~~services, skilled nursing facility services, hospice care, bariatric~~
32 ~~surgery, nonsevere mental illness services, substance abuse~~
33 ~~services, smoking cessation counseling, alcoholism treatment,~~
34 ~~applied behavior analysis therapy for autism, smoking cessation~~
35 ~~drugs, pain medication for terminally ill patients, rehabilitative~~
36 ~~services, habilitative, physical, and occupational therapy, speech~~
37 ~~therapy, orthotics and prosthetics, prosthetic devices for~~
38 ~~laryngectomy, special footwear for persons suffering from foot~~
39 ~~disfigurement, surgically implanted hearing devices, home health~~

1 services, HIV/AIDS services, osteoporosis services, and diabetes
2 education.

3 (ii) Mandated benefits pursuant to statutes enacted before
4 December 31, 2011.

5 (B) The services and benefits described in this paragraph shall
6 be covered to the extent they are medically necessary. Scope and
7 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in
8 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration limits
9 imposed on those services and benefits by the plan contract
10 identified in subparagraph (A).

11 (2) With respect to habilitative services, in addition to any
12 habilitative services identified in paragraph (1), the same services
13 as the plan contract covers for rehabilitative services. Habilitative
14 services shall be covered under the same terms and conditions
15 applied to rehabilitative services under the plan contract.

16 (3) With respect to pediatric oral care *and pediatric vision care*,
17 the same services and benefits for pediatric oral care *and pediatric*
18 *vision care* covered under the ~~federal Blue Cross and Blue Shield~~
19 ~~Standard Option Service Benefit Plan available to enrollees through~~
20 ~~the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHB) as of~~
21 ~~December 31, 2011~~ *Federal Employees Dental and Vision*
22 *Insurance Program dental plan and vision plan with the largest*
23 *national enrollment as of the first quarter of 2012.* Scope and
24 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in
25 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration
26 limitations imposed on those benefits by the ~~federal Blue Cross~~
27 ~~and Blue Shield Standard Option Service Benefit Plan available~~
28 ~~to enrollees through the FEHB as of December 31, 2011~~ *Federal*
29 *Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program dental plan and*
30 *vision plan with the largest national enrollment as of the first*
31 *quarter of 2012.*

32 (4) Any other benefits required to be covered under this chapter.

33 (b) When offering, issuing, selling, or marketing a health care
34 service plan contract, a health care service plan shall not indicate
35 or imply that the plan contract covers essential health benefits
36 unless the plan contract covers essential health benefits as defined
37 in this section.

38 (c) This section shall apply regardless of whether the plan
39 contract is offered inside or outside the California Health Benefit
40 Exchange created by Section 100500 of the Government Code.

1 (d) A plan contract subject to this section shall also comply with
2 Section 1367.001.

3 (e) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a plan contract
4 from covering additional benefits, including, but not limited to,
5 spiritual care services that are tax deductible under Section 213 of
6 the Internal Revenue Code.

7 (f) Subdivision (a) shall not apply to any of the following:

8 (1) A plan contract that provides excepted benefits as described
9 in Section 2722 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
10 Sec. 300gg-21).

11 (2) A plan contract that qualifies as a grandfathered health plan
12 under Section 1251 of PPACA.

13 (g) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that
14 federal law or policy does not require the state to defray the costs
15 of benefits included within the definition of essential health benefits
16 under this section.

17 (h) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
18 apply:

19 (1) "Habilitative services" means health care services that help
20 a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily
21 living.

22 (2) "PPACA" means the federal Patient Protection and
23 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
24 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
25 (Public Law 111-152), and any rules, regulations, or guidance
26 issued thereunder.

27 (3) "Small group health care service plan contract" means a
28 group health care service plan contract issued to a small employer,
29 as defined in Section 1357.

30 SEC. 3. Section 10112.27 is added to the Insurance Code, to
31 read:

32 10112.27. (a) An individual or small group health insurance
33 policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014,
34 shall, at a minimum, include coverage for essential health benefits.
35 For purposes of this section, "essential health benefits" means all
36 of the following:

37 (1) (A) The benefits and services covered by the Kaiser Small
38 Group HMO plan contract (product number 40513CA035) as of
39 ~~December 31, 2011~~; *this contract was offered during the first*
40 *quarter of 2012*, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

1 (i) The items and services covered by the plan contract within
2 the categories identified in subsection (b) of Section 1302 of
3 PPACA, including, but not limited to, ambulatory patient services,
4 emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care,
5 mental health and substance use disorder services, including
6 behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and
7 habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive
8 and wellness services and chronic disease management, and
9 pediatric vision care.

10 ~~(ii) The items and services covered by the plan contract within~~
11 ~~the following categories: acupuncture services, chiropractic~~
12 ~~services, skilled nursing facility services, hospice care, bariatric~~
13 ~~surgery, nonsevere mental illness services, substance abuse~~
14 ~~services, smoking cessation counseling, alcoholism treatment,~~
15 ~~applied behavior analysis therapy for autism, smoking cessation~~
16 ~~drugs, pain medication for terminally ill patients, rehabilitative~~
17 ~~services, habilitative, physical, and occupational therapy, speech~~
18 ~~therapy, orthotics and prosthetics, prosthetic devices for~~
19 ~~laryngectomy, special footwear for persons suffering from foot~~
20 ~~disfigurement, surgically implanted hearing devices, home health~~
21 ~~services, HIV/AIDS services, osteoporosis services, and diabetes~~
22 ~~education.~~

23 ~~(ii) Mandated benefits pursuant to statutes enacted before~~
24 ~~December 31, 2011.~~

25 (B) The services and benefits described in this paragraph shall
26 be covered to the extent they are medically necessary. Scope and
27 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in
28 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration limits
29 imposed on those services and benefits by the health care service
30 plan contract identified in subparagraph (A).

31 (2) With respect to habilitative services, in addition to any
32 habilitative services identified in paragraph (1), the same services
33 as the policy covers for rehabilitative services. Habilitative services
34 shall be covered under the same terms and conditions applied to
35 rehabilitative services under the policy.

36 (3) With respect to pediatric oral care *and pediatric vision care*,
37 the same services and benefits for pediatric oral care *and pediatric*
38 *vision care* covered under the ~~federal Blue Cross and Blue Shield~~
39 ~~Standard Option Service Benefit Plan~~ available to enrollees through
40 the ~~Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHB)~~ as of

1 ~~December 31, 2011~~ *Federal Employees Dental and Vision*
2 *Insurance Program dental plan and vision plan with the largest*
3 *national enrollment as of the first quarter of 2012.* Scope and
4 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in
5 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration
6 limitations imposed on those benefits by the ~~federal Blue Cross~~
7 ~~and Blue Shield Standard Option Service Benefit Plan available~~
8 ~~to enrollees through the FEHB as of December 31, 2011~~ *Federal*
9 *Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program dental plan and*
10 *vision plan with the largest national enrollment as of the first*
11 *quarter of 2012.*

12 (4) Any other benefits required to be covered under this part.

13 (b) When offering, issuing, selling, or marketing a health
14 insurance policy, a health insurer shall not indicate or imply that
15 the policy covers essential health benefits unless the policy covers
16 essential health benefits as defined in this section.

17 (c) This section shall apply regardless of whether the policy is
18 offered inside or outside the California Health Benefit Exchange
19 created by Section 100500 of the Government Code.

20 (d) A health insurance policy subject to this section shall also
21 comply with Section 10112.1.

22 (e) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a policy from
23 covering additional benefits, including, but not limited to, spiritual
24 care services that are tax deductible under Section 213 of the
25 Internal Revenue Code.

26 (f) Subdivision (a) shall not apply to any of the following:

27 (1) A policy that provides excepted benefits as described in
28 Section 2722 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
29 Sec. 300gg-21).

30 (2) A health insurance policy that qualifies as a grandfathered
31 health plan under Section 1251 of PPACA.

32 (g) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that
33 federal law or policy does not require the state to defray the costs
34 of benefits included within the definition of essential health benefits
35 under this section.

36 (h) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
37 apply:

38 (1) "Habilitative services" means health care services that help
39 a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily
40 living.

1 (2) "PPACA" means the federal Patient Protection and
2 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
3 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
4 (Public Law 111-152), and any rules, regulations, or guidance
5 issued thereunder.

6 (3) "Small group health insurance policy" means a group health
7 insurance policy issued to a small employer, as defined in Section
8 10700.

9 SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
10 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
11 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
12 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
13 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
14 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
15 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
16 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
17 Constitution.

SB 951 (Hernandez) – Health Care Coverage: Essential Health Benefits

Introduced January 5, 2012, Amended April 16, 2012

Effective January 1, 2014, federal law requires Medicaid benchmark and benchmark-equivalent plans, plans sold through the American Health Benefit Exchange and the Basic Health Program (if enacted), and health plans and health insurers providing coverage to individuals and small employers to ensure coverage of essential health benefits (EHBs), as defined by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS is required to ensure that the scope of EHBs is equal to the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan, as determined by the Secretary.

Existing federal law:

- 1) Requires, under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), health plans and health insurers that offer coverage in the small group or individual market to ensure that coverage includes the (EHB) package.
- 2) Requires each state, by January 1, 2014, to establish an American Health Benefit Exchange that facilitates the purchase of qualified health plans by qualified individuals and qualified small employers.

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to license and regulate health care service plans (health plans) and establishes the Department of Insurance to provide for the regulation of health insurers.
- 2) Requires health plan contracts and health insurance policies to cover various benefits.
- 3) Establishes the California Health Benefit Exchange to facilitate the purchase of qualified health plans by qualified individuals and qualified small employers by January 1, 2014.

This bill:

- 1) Requires individual and small group health plans and health insurance policy contracts, both inside and outside of the American Health Benefit Exchange, to cover EHBs, as defined.
- 2) Defines EHBs as the benefits and services covered by Kaiser Small Group HMO, including the categories identified in the ACA.
- 3) Requires the services and benefits to be covered to the extent they are medically necessary, and prohibits the scope and duration limits from exceeding the scope and duration limits imposed on those services by the plan contract.

4) Requires habilitative services to be provided for the same services as the plan contract provides for rehabilitative services and under the same terms and conditions of the plan contract for rehabilitative services.

5) Requires the same services and benefits for pediatric oral care as provided by a specified federal plan to be provided as an EHB.

6) Prohibits plans from indicating or implying a contract or policy meets the EHB standard unless it covers EHBs, as defined.

7) Exempts self-insured group health plans, large group market health plans, or grandfathered health plans.

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 951

Introduced by Senator Hernandez

January 5, 2012

An act to add Section 1367.005 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10112.27 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 951, as amended, Hernandez. Health care coverage: essential health benefits.

Commencing January 1, 2014, existing law, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), requires a health insurance issuer that offers coverage in the small group or individual market to ensure that such coverage includes the essential health benefits package, as defined. PPACA requires each state to, by January 1, 2014, establish an American Health Benefit Exchange that facilitates the purchase of qualified health plans by qualified individuals and qualified small employers. PPACA defines a qualified health plan as a plan that, among other requirements, provides an essential health benefits package. Existing state law creates the California Health Benefit Exchange (the Exchange) to facilitate the purchase of qualified health plans by qualified individuals and qualified small employers by January 1, 2014.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires

health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to cover various benefits.

This bill would require an individual or small group health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, to cover essential health benefits, which would be defined to include the benefits and services covered by particular plans. The bill would specify that this provision applies regardless of whether the contract or policy is offered inside or outside the Exchange but would provide that it does not apply to grandfathered plans or plans that offer excepted benefits, as specified. The bill would prohibit a health care service plan or health insurer, when offering, issuing, selling, or marketing a plan contract or policy, from indicating or implying that the contract or policy covers essential health benefits unless the contract or policy covers essential health benefits as provided in the bill.

Because a willful violation of the bill's provisions with respect to health care service plans would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the
2 following:

3 (a) Commencing January 1, 2014, the federal Patient Protection
4 and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires a health insurance
5 issuer that offers coverage to small employers or individuals, both
6 inside and outside of the California Health Benefit Exchange, with
7 the exception of grandfathered plans, to provide minimum coverage
8 that includes essential health benefits, as defined.

9 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to comply with federal law
10 and consistently implement the essential health benefits provisions
11 of PPACA and related federal guidance and regulations, by
12 adopting the uniform minimum essential benefits requirement in

1 state-regulated health care coverage regardless of whether the
2 policy or contract is regulated by the Department of Managed
3 Health Care or the Department of Insurance and regardless of
4 whether the policy or contract is offered to individuals or small
5 employers inside or outside of the California Health Benefit
6 Exchange.

7 SEC. 2. Section 1367.005 is added to the Health and Safety
8 Code, to read:

9 1367.005. (a) An individual or small group health care service
10 plan contract issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1,
11 2014, shall, at a minimum, include coverage for essential health
12 benefits. For purposes of this section, “essential health benefits”
13 means all of the following:

14 (1) (A) The benefits and services covered by the Kaiser ~~Small~~
15 *Foundation Health Plan Group HMO thirty-dollar (\$30) deductible*
16 ~~plan contract (product (federal health product identification number~~
17 ~~40513CA035) as of December 31, 2011; this contract was offered~~
18 ~~during the first quarter of 2012, including, but not limited to, all~~
19 ~~of the following:~~

20 (i) The items and services covered by the plan contract within
21 the categories identified in subsection (b) of Section 1302 of
22 PPACA, including, but not limited to, ambulatory patient services,
23 emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care,
24 mental health and substance use disorder services, including
25 behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and
26 habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive
27 and wellness services and chronic disease management, and
28 *pediatric services, including oral and vision care.*

29 ~~(ii) The items and services covered by the plan contract within~~
30 ~~the following categories: acupuncture services, chiropractic~~
31 ~~services, skilled nursing facility services, hospice care, bariatric~~
32 ~~surgery, nonsevere mental illness services, substance abuse~~
33 ~~services, smoking cessation counseling, alcoholism treatment,~~
34 ~~applied behavior analysis therapy for autism, smoking cessation~~
35 ~~drugs, pain medication for terminally ill patients, rehabilitative~~
36 ~~services, habilitative, physical, and occupational therapy, speech~~
37 ~~therapy, orthotics and prosthetics, prosthetic devices for~~
38 ~~laryngectomy, special footwear for persons suffering from foot~~
39 ~~disfigurement, surgically implanted hearing devices, home health~~

1 services, HIV/AIDS services, osteoporosis services, and diabetes
2 education.

3 (ii) Mandated benefits pursuant to statutes enacted before
4 December 31, 2011.

5 (B) The services and benefits described in this paragraph shall
6 be covered to the extent they are medically necessary. Scope and
7 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in
8 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration limits
9 imposed on those services and benefits by the plan contract
10 identified in subparagraph (A).

11 (2) With respect to habilitative services, in addition to any
12 habilitative services identified in paragraph (1), the same services
13 as the plan contract covers for rehabilitative services. Habilitative
14 services shall be covered under the same terms and conditions
15 applied to rehabilitative services under the plan contract.

16 (3) With respect to pediatric oral care *and pediatric vision care*,
17 the same services and benefits for pediatric oral care *and pediatric*
18 *vision care* covered under the federal Blue Cross and Blue Shield
19 Standard Option Service Benefit Plan available to enrollees through
20 the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHB) as of
21 December 31, 2011 *Federal Employees Dental and Vision*
22 *Insurance Program dental plan and vision plan with the largest*
23 *national enrollment as of the first quarter of 2012. Scope and*
24 *duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in*
25 *this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration*
26 *limitations imposed on those benefits by the federal Blue Cross*
27 *and Blue Shield Standard Option Service Benefit Plan available*
28 *to enrollees through the FEHB as of December 31, 2011. Federal*
29 *Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program dental plan and*
30 *vision plan with the largest national enrollment as of the first*
31 *quarter of 2012. The pediatric oral and vision care benefits covered*
32 *pursuant to this paragraph shall be in addition to, and shall not*
33 *replace, any dental, orthodontic, or vision services covered under*
34 *the plan contract identified in paragraph (1).*

35 (4) Any other benefits required to be covered under this chapter.

36 (d)

37 (b) When offering, issuing, selling, or marketing a health care
38 service plan contract, a health care service plan shall not indicate
39 or imply that the plan contract covers essential health benefits

1 unless the plan contract covers essential health benefits as defined
2 in this section.

3 (e)

4 (c) This section shall apply regardless of whether the plan
5 contract is offered inside or outside the California Health Benefit
6 Exchange created by Section 100500 of the Government Code.

7 (f)

8 (d) A plan contract subject to this section shall also comply with
9 Section 1367.001.

10 (g)

11 (e) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a plan contract
12 from covering additional benefits, including, but not limited to,
13 spiritual care services that are tax deductible under Section 213 of
14 the Internal Revenue Code.

15 (h)

16 (f) Subdivision (a) shall not apply to any of the following:

17 (1) A plan contract that provides excepted benefits as described
18 in Section 2722 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
19 Sec. 300gg-21).

20 (2) A plan contract that qualifies as a grandfathered health plan
21 under Section 1251 of PPACA.

22 (i)

23 (g) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that
24 federal law or policy does not require the state to defray the costs
25 of benefits included within the definition of essential health benefits
26 under this section.

27 (j)

28 (h) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
29 apply:

30 (1) "Habilitative services" means health care services that help
31 a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily
32 living.

33 (2) "PPACA" means the federal Patient Protection and
34 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
35 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
36 (Public Law 111-152), and any rules, regulations, or guidance
37 issued thereunder.

38 (3) "Small group health care service plan contract" means a
39 group health care service plan contract issued to a small employer,
40 as defined in Section 1357.

1 SEC. 3. Section 10112.27 is added to the Insurance Code, to
2 read:

3 10112.27. (a) An individual or small group health insurance
4 policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014,
5 shall, at a minimum, include coverage for essential health benefits.
6 For purposes of this section, “essential health benefits” means all
7 of the following:

8 (1) (A) The benefits and services covered by the Kaiser-~~Small~~
9 ~~Foundation Health Plan Group HMO thirty-dollar (\$30) deductible~~
10 ~~plan contract (product (federal health product identification number~~
11 ~~40513CA035) as of December 31, 2011 this contract was offered~~
12 ~~during the first quarter of 2012, including, but not limited to, all~~
13 ~~of the following:~~

14 (i) The items and services covered by the plan contract within
15 the categories identified in subsection (b) of Section 1302 of
16 PPACA, including, but not limited to, ambulatory patient services,
17 emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care,
18 mental health and substance use disorder services, including
19 behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and
20 habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive
21 and wellness services and chronic disease management, and
22 *pediatric services, including oral and vision care.*

23 ~~(ii) The items and services covered by the plan contract within~~
24 ~~the following categories: acupuncture services, chiropractic~~
25 ~~services, skilled nursing facility services, hospice care, bariatric~~
26 ~~surgery, nonsevere mental illness services, substance abuse~~
27 ~~services, smoking cessation counseling, alcoholism treatment,~~
28 ~~applied behavior analysis therapy for autism, smoking cessation~~
29 ~~drugs, pain medication for terminally ill patients, rehabilitative~~
30 ~~services, habilitative, physical, and occupational therapy, speech~~
31 ~~therapy, orthotics and prosthetics, prosthetic devices for~~
32 ~~laryngectomy, special footwear for persons suffering from foot~~
33 ~~disfigurement, surgically implanted hearing devices, home health~~
34 ~~services, HIV/AIDS services, osteoporosis services, and diabetes~~
35 ~~education.~~

36 ~~(ii) Mandated benefits pursuant to statutes enacted before~~
37 ~~December 31, 2011.~~

38 (B) The services and benefits described in this paragraph shall
39 be covered to the extent they are medically necessary. Scope and
40 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in

1 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration limits
2 imposed on those services and benefits by the health care service
3 plan contract identified in subparagraph (A).

4 (2) With respect to habilitative services, in addition to any
5 habilitative services identified in paragraph (1), the same services
6 as the policy covers for rehabilitative services. Habilitative services
7 shall be covered under the same terms and conditions applied to
8 rehabilitative services under the policy.

9 (3) With respect to pediatric oral care *and pediatric vision care*,
10 the same services and benefits for pediatric oral care *and pediatric*
11 *vision care* covered under the ~~federal Blue Cross and Blue Shield~~
12 ~~Standard Option Service Benefit Plan~~ available to enrollees through
13 ~~the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHB) as of~~
14 ~~December 31, 2011~~ *Federal Employees Dental and Vision*
15 *Insurance Program dental plan and vision plan with the largest*
16 *national enrollment as of the first quarter of 2012*. Scope and
17 duration limits imposed on the services and benefits described in
18 this paragraph shall be no greater than the scope and duration
19 limitations imposed on those benefits by the ~~federal Blue Cross~~
20 ~~and Blue Shield Standard Option Service Benefit Plan~~ available
21 ~~to enrollees through the FEHB as of December 31, 2011~~. *Federal*
22 *Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program dental plan and*
23 *vision plan with the largest national enrollment as of the first*
24 *quarter of 2012*. *The pediatric oral and vision care services*
25 *covered pursuant to this paragraph shall be in addition to, and*
26 *shall not replace, any dental, orthodontic, or vision services*
27 *covered under the plan contract identified in paragraph (1)*.

28 (4) Any other benefits required to be covered under this chapter.

29 ~~(d)~~

30 (b) When offering, issuing, selling, or marketing a health
31 insurance policy, a health insurer shall not indicate or imply that
32 the policy covers essential health benefits unless the policy covers
33 essential health benefits as defined in this section.

34 ~~(e)~~

35 (c) This section shall apply regardless of whether the policy is
36 offered inside or outside the California Health Benefit Exchange
37 created by Section 100500 of the Government Code.

38 ~~(f)~~

39 (d) A health insurance policy subject to this section shall also
40 comply with Section 10112.1.

1 ~~(g)~~
 2 (e) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a policy from
 3 covering additional benefits, including, but not limited to, spiritual
 4 care services that are tax deductible under Section 213 of the
 5 Internal Revenue Code.

6 ~~(h)~~
 7 (f) Subdivision (a) shall not apply to any of the following:
 8 (1) A policy that provides excepted benefits as described in
 9 Section 2722 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 10 Sec. 300gg-21).

11 (2) A policy that qualifies as a grandfathered health plan under
 12 Section 1251 of PPACA.

13 ~~(i)~~
 14 (g) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that
 15 federal law or policy does not require the state to defray the costs
 16 of benefits included within the definition of essential health benefits
 17 under this section.

18 ~~(j)~~
 19 (h) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
 20 apply:

21 (1) “Habilitative services” means health care services that help
 22 a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily
 23 living.

24 (2) “PPACA” means the federal Patient Protection and
 25 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
 26 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
 27 (Public Law 111-152), and any rules, regulations, or guidance
 28 issued thereunder.

29 (3) “Small group health insurance policy” means a group health
 30 care service insurance policy issued to a small employer, as defined
 31 in Section 10700.

32 SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
 33 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
 34 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
 35 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
 36 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
 37 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
 38 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within

1 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
2 Constitution.

O

SB 961 (Hernandez) – Individual Health Care Coverage

Introduced January 10, 2012, Amended April 9, 2012

This bill reforms California's individual market in accordance with federal health care reform and applies its provisions to health plans and disability insurers in the individual market; requires guaranteed issue of individual market health plans and health insurance policies; prohibits the use of preexisting conditions provisions; establishes open and special enrollment periods consistent with the California Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange); prohibits conditioning the issuance or offering based on specified discriminatory factors; prohibits specified marketing and solicitation practices consistent with small group requirements; requires guaranteed renewability of plans and permits rating factors based on age, geographic region and family size only.

Introduced by Senator Hernandez
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Monning)

January 10, 2012

An act to add Section 1374.59 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health care service plans amend Sections 1357.51 and 1399.829 of, to amend the heading of Article 11.7 (commencing with Section 1399.825) of Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of, to add Section 1399.836 to, to add Article 11.8 (commencing with Section 1399.845) to Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of, and to repeal Article 11.7 (commencing with Section 1399.825) of Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of, the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Sections 10198.7 and 10954 of, to amend the heading of Chapter 9.7 (commencing with Section 10950) of Part 2 of Division 2 of, to add Section 10961 to, to add Chapter 9.8 (commencing with Section 10965) to Part 2 of Division 2 of, and to repeal Chapter 9.7 (commencing with Section 10950) of Part 2 of Division 2 of, the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 961, as amended, Hernandez. ~~Health care service plans~~. *Individual health care coverage.*

Existing law, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), enacts various health care coverage market reforms that take effect January 1, 2014. Among other things, PPACA requires each health insurance issuer that offers health insurance coverage in the individual or group market in a state to accept every employer and individual in the state that applies for that coverage and to renew that coverage at the option of the plan sponsor or the individual. PPACA

prohibits a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing any preexisting condition exclusion with respect to that plan or coverage. PPACA allows the premium rate charge by a health insurance issuer offering small group or individual coverage to vary only by family composition, rating area, age, and tobacco use, as specified, and prohibits discrimination against individuals based on health status.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the ~~licensing~~ licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law *also* provides for the ~~licensing~~ and regulation of health insurers by the Insurance Commissioner. ~~The California Health Benefit Exchange is governed by a board and the board is required to facilitate enrollment of qualified individuals in qualified health plans.~~ Existing law requires plans and insurers offering coverage in the individual market to offer coverage for a child subject to specified requirements.

This bill would prohibit a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, from imposing any preexisting condition provision upon any individual, except as specified. The bill would require a plan or insurer, on and after January 1, 2014, to offer, market, and sell all of the plan's health benefit plans that are sold in the individual market to all individuals in each service area in which the plan provides or arranges for the provision of health care services, but would require plans and insurers to limit enrollment to specified open enrollment and special enrollment periods. Commencing January 1, 2014, the bill would prohibit a plan or insurer from conditioning the issuance or offering of individual health benefit plans on any health status-related factor, as specified, and would authorize plans and insurers to use only age, geographic region, and family size for purposes of establishing rates for individual health benefit plans. The bill would enact other related provisions and make related conforming changes.

Because a willful violation of the bill's requirements with respect to health care service plans would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

~~Existing federal law, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commencing on and after January 1, 2014, requires each health insurance issuer that offers health insurance coverage in the individual or group market in a state to accept every employer and~~

~~individual in the state that applies for that coverage and requires the issuer to renew that coverage. Existing federal law, commencing on and after January 1, 2014, prohibits discriminatory premium rates charged by a health insurance issuer for health insurance coverage offered in the individual or small group market, as specified, and also prohibits discrimination against individuals based on health status. Existing federal law, commencing on and after January 1, 2014, except as otherwise specified, prohibits a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing any preexisting condition exclusion with respect to that plan or coverage.~~

~~This bill would, to the extent required by federal law, require a health care service plan contract to comply with these federal requirements. The bill would require the department to consult and coordinate with the commissioner and the Exchange in carrying out these provisions.~~

~~Because a willful violation of these provisions would constitute a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1357.51 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 1357.51. (a) No plan contract that covers three or more
- 4 enrollees shall exclude coverage for any individual on the basis
- 5 of a preexisting condition provision for a period greater than six
- 6 months following the individual's effective date of coverage.
- 7 Preexisting condition provisions contained in plan contracts may
- 8 relate only to conditions for which medical advice, diagnosis, care,
- 9 or treatment, including use of prescription drugs, was recommended
- 10 or received from a licensed health practitioner during the six
- 11 months immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.
- 12 (b) No plan contract that covers one or two individuals shall
- 13 exclude coverage on the basis of a preexisting condition provision

1 for a period greater than 12 months following the individual's
2 effective date of coverage, nor shall the plan limit or exclude
3 coverage for a specific enrollee by type of illness, treatment,
4 medical condition, or accident, except for satisfaction of a
5 preexisting condition clause pursuant to this article. Preexisting
6 condition provisions contained in plan contracts may relate only
7 to conditions for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or
8 treatment, including use of prescription drugs, was recommended
9 or received from a licensed health practitioner during the 12 months
10 immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.

11 (c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a plan contract for
12 group coverage shall not impose any preexisting condition
13 provision upon any child under 19 years of age. *A plan contract*
14 *for group coverage issued, amended, or renewed on or after*
15 *January 1, 2014, shall not impose any preexisting condition*
16 *provision upon any individual.*

17 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a plan contract for
18 individual coverage that is not a grandfathered health plan within
19 the meaning of Section 1251 of the federal Patient Protection and
20 Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) shall not impose any
21 preexisting condition provision upon any child under 19 years of
22 age. *A plan contract for individual coverage that is issued,*
23 *amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, and that is not*
24 *a grandfathered health plan within the meaning of Section 1251*
25 *of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public*
26 *Law 111-148) shall not impose any preexisting condition provision*
27 *upon any individual.*

28 (d) A plan that does not utilize a preexisting condition provision
29 may impose a waiting or affiliation period not to exceed 60 days,
30 before the coverage issued subject to this article shall become
31 effective. During the waiting or affiliation period, the plan is not
32 required to provide health care services and no premium shall be
33 charged to the subscriber or enrollee.

34 (e) A plan that does not utilize a preexisting condition provision
35 in plan contracts that cover one or two individuals may impose a
36 contract provision excluding coverage for waived conditions.
37 No plan may exclude coverage on the basis of a waived condition
38 for a period greater than 12 months following the individual's
39 effective date of coverage. A waived condition provision
40 contained in plan contracts may relate only to conditions for which

1 medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment, including use of
2 prescription drugs, was recommended or received from a licensed
3 health practitioner during the 12 months immediately preceding
4 the effective date of coverage.

5 (f) In determining whether a preexisting condition provision, a
6 waived condition provision, or a waiting or affiliation period
7 applies to any enrollee, a plan shall credit the time the enrollee
8 was covered under creditable coverage, provided that the enrollee
9 becomes eligible for coverage under the succeeding plan contract
10 within 62 days of termination of prior coverage, exclusive of any
11 waiting or affiliation period, and applies for coverage under the
12 succeeding plan within the applicable enrollment period. A plan
13 shall also credit any time that an eligible employee must wait
14 before enrolling in the plan, including any postenrollment or
15 employer-imposed waiting or affiliation period.

16 However, if a person's employment has ended, the availability
17 of health coverage offered through employment or sponsored by
18 an employer has terminated, or an employer's contribution toward
19 health coverage has terminated, a plan shall credit the time the
20 person was covered under creditable coverage if the person
21 becomes eligible for health coverage offered through employment
22 or sponsored by an employer within 180 days, exclusive of any
23 waiting or affiliation period, and applies for coverage under the
24 succeeding plan contract within the applicable enrollment period.

25 (g) No plan shall exclude late enrollees from coverage for more
26 than 12 months from the date of the late enrollee's application for
27 coverage. No plan shall require any premium or other periodic
28 charge to be paid by or on behalf of a late enrollee during the period
29 of exclusion from coverage permitted by this subdivision.

30 (h) A health care service plan issuing group coverage may not
31 impose a preexisting condition exclusion upon a condition relating
32 to benefits for pregnancy or maternity care.

33 (i) An individual's period of creditable coverage shall be
34 certified pursuant to subsection (e) of Section 2701 of Title XXVII
35 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg(e)).

36 *SEC. 2. The heading of Article 11.7 (commencing with Section*
37 *1399.825) of Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety*
38 *Code is amended to read:*

39

40 Article 11.7. ~~Individual~~ Child Access to Health Care Coverage

1 *SEC. 3. Section 1399.829 of the Health and Safety Code is*
2 *amended to read:*

3 1399.829. (a) A health care service plan may use the following
4 characteristics of an eligible child for purposes of establishing the
5 rate of the plan contract for that child, where consistent with federal
6 regulations under PPACA: age, geographic region, and family
7 composition, plus the health care service plan contract selected by
8 the child or the responsible party for the child.

9 (b) From the effective date of this article to December 31, 2013,
10 inclusive, rates for a child applying for coverage shall be subject
11 to the following limitations:

12 (1) During any open enrollment period or for late enrollees, the
13 rate for any child due to health status shall not be more than two
14 times the standard risk rate for a child.

15 (2) The rate for a child shall be subject to a 20-percent surcharge
16 above the highest allowable rate on a child applying for coverage
17 who is not a late enrollee and who failed to maintain coverage with
18 any health care service plan or health insurer for the 90-day period
19 prior to the date of the child's application. The surcharge shall
20 apply for the 12-month period following the effective date of the
21 child's coverage.

22 (3) If expressly permitted under PPACA and any rules,
23 regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to that act, a health care
24 service plan may rate a child based on health status during any
25 period other than an open enrollment period if the child is not a
26 late enrollee.

27 (4) If expressly permitted under PPACA and any rules,
28 regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to that act, a health care
29 service plan may condition an offer or acceptance of coverage on
30 any preexisting condition or other health status-related factor for
31 a period other than an open enrollment period and for a child who
32 is not a late enrollee.

33 (c) For any individual health care service plan contract issued,
34 sold, or renewed prior to December 31, 2013, the health plan shall
35 provide to a child or responsible party for a child a notice that
36 states the following:

37

38 "Please consider your options carefully before failing to maintain
39 or renew coverage for a child for whom you are responsible. If
40 you attempt to obtain new individual coverage for that child, the

1 premium for the same coverage may be higher than the premium
2 you pay now.”

3
4 (d) A child who applied for coverage between September 23,
5 2010, and the end of the initial open enrollment period shall be
6 deemed to have maintained coverage during that period.

7 ~~(e) Effective January 1, 2014, except for individual~~
8 ~~grandfathered health plan coverage, the rate for any child shall be~~
9 ~~identical to the standard risk rate.~~

10 ~~(f)~~
11 (e) Health care service plans may require documentation from
12 applicants relating to their coverage history.

13 *SEC. 4. Section 1399.836 is added to the Health and Safety*
14 *Code, to read:*

15 *1399.836. This article shall remain in effect only until January*
16 *1, 2014, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted*
17 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2014, deletes or extends*
18 *that date.*

19 *SEC. 5. Article 11.8 (commencing with Section 1399.845) is*
20 *added to Chapter 2.2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code,*
21 *to read:*

22
23 *Article 11.8. Individual Access to Health Care Coverage*

24
25 *1399.845. For purposes of this article, the following definitions*
26 *shall apply:*

27 (a) “Dependent” means the spouse or child of an individual,
28 subject to applicable terms of the health benefit plan.

29 (b) “Exchange” means the California Health Benefit Exchange
30 created by Section 100500 of the Government Code.

31 (c) “Grandfathered health plan” has the same meaning as that
32 term is defined in Section 1251 of PPACA.

33 (d) “Health benefit plan” means any individual or group health
34 insurance policy or health care service plan contract that provides
35 medical, hospital, and surgical benefits. The term does not include
36 accident only, credit, disability income, coverage of Medicare
37 services pursuant to contracts with the United States government,
38 Medicare supplement, long-term care insurance, dental, vision,
39 coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance, insurance
40 arising out of a workers’ compensation or similar law, automobile

1 *medical payment insurance, or insurance under which benefits*
2 *are payable with or without regard to fault and that is statutorily*
3 *required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or*
4 *equivalent self-insurance.*

5 (e) *“PPACA” means the federal Patient Protection and*
6 *Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the*
7 *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public*
8 *Law 111-152), and any subsequent rules or regulations issued*
9 *pursuant to that law.*

10 (f) *“Preexisting condition provision” means a contract provision*
11 *that excludes coverage for charges or expenses incurred during*
12 *a specified period following the enrollee’s effective date of*
13 *coverage, as to a condition for which medical advice, diagnosis,*
14 *care, or treatment was recommended or received during a specified*
15 *period immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.*

16 (g) *“Qualified health plan” has the same meaning as that term*
17 *is defined in Section 1301 of PPACA.*

18 (h) *“Rating period” means the period for which premium rates*
19 *established by a plan are in effect.*

20 1399.847. *Every health care service plan offering individual*
21 *health benefit plans shall, in addition to complying with the*
22 *provisions of this chapter and rules adopted thereunder, comply*
23 *with the provisions of this article.*

24 1399.849. (a) (1) *On and after January 1, 2014, a plan shall*
25 *fairly and affirmatively offer, market, and sell all of the plan’s*
26 *health benefit plans that are sold in the individual market to all*
27 *individuals in each service area in which the plan provides or*
28 *arranges for the provision of health care services. A plan shall*
29 *limit enrollment to open enrollment periods and special enrollment*
30 *periods as provided in subdivisions (c) and (d).*

31 (2) *A plan that offers qualified health plans through the*
32 *Exchange shall be deemed to be in compliance with paragraph*
33 *(1) with respect to an individual health benefit plan offered through*
34 *the Exchange in those geographic regions in which the plan offers*
35 *health benefit plans through the Exchange.*

36 (b) *An individual health benefit plan issued, amended, or*
37 *renewed on or after January 1, 2014, shall not impose any*
38 *preexisting condition provision upon any individual.*

39 (c) *A plan shall provide an initial open enrollment period from*
40 *October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, inclusive, and annual*

1 enrollment periods for plan years on or after January 1, 2015,
2 from October 15 to December 7, inclusive, of the preceding
3 calendar year.

4 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), a plan shall allow an individual
5 to enroll in or change individual health benefit plans as a result
6 of the following triggering events:

7 (1) He or she loses minimum essential coverage. For purposes
8 of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

9 (A) "Minimum essential coverage" has the same meaning as
10 that term is defined in subsection (f) of Section 5000A of the
11 Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 5000A).

12 (B) "Loss of minimum essential coverage" includes loss of that
13 coverage due to the circumstances described in Section
14 54.9801-6(a)(3)(i) to (iii), inclusive, of Title 26 of the Code of
15 Federal Regulations. "Loss of minimum essential coverage" does
16 not include loss of that coverage due to the individual's failure to
17 pay premiums on a timely basis or situations allowing for a
18 rescission, subject to Section 1389.21.

19 (2) He or she gains a dependent or becomes a dependent
20 through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

21 (3) He or she becomes a resident of California.

22 (4) He or she is mandated to be covered pursuant to a valid
23 state or federal court order.

24 (5) With respect to individual health benefit plans offered
25 through the Exchange, the individual meets any of the requirements
26 listed in Section 155.420(d)(3) of Title 45 of the Code of Federal
27 Regulations.

28 (e) With respect to individual health benefit plans offered outside
29 the Exchange, an individual shall have 63 days from the date of a
30 triggering event identified in subdivision (d) to apply for coverage
31 from a health care service plan subject to this section. With respect
32 to individual health benefit plans offered through the Exchange,
33 an individual shall have 63 days from the date of a triggering event
34 to select a plan offered through the Exchange.

35 (f) (1) With respect to individual health benefit plans offered
36 outside the Exchange, after an individual submits a completed
37 application form for a plan, the health care service plan shall,
38 within 30 days, notify the individual of the individual's actual
39 premium charges for that plan established in accordance with

1 Section 1399.855. The individual shall have 30 days in which to
2 exercise the right to buy coverage at the quoted premium charges.
3 (2) With respect to an individual health benefit plan offered
4 outside the Exchange for which an individual applies during the
5 initial open enrollment period described in subdivision (c), when
6 the subscriber submits a premium payment, based on the quoted
7 premium charges, and that payment is delivered or postmarked,
8 whichever occurs earlier, by December 15, 2013, coverage under
9 the individual health benefit plan shall become effective no later
10 than January 1, 2014, except that coverage for an individual under
11 19 years of age shall, at the option of the subscriber, become
12 effective as required under Section 1399.826. When that payment
13 is delivered or postmarked within the first 15 days of any
14 subsequent month, coverage shall become effective no later than
15 the first day of the following month. When that payment is delivered
16 or postmarked between December 16, 2013, and December 31,
17 2013, inclusive, or after the 15th day of any subsequent month,
18 coverage shall become effective no later than the first day of the
19 second month following delivery or postmark of the payment.
20 (3) With respect to an individual health benefit plan offered
21 outside the Exchange for which an individual applies during the
22 annual open enrollment period described in subdivision (c), when
23 the individual submits a premium payment, based on the quoted
24 premium charges, and that payment is delivered or postmarked,
25 whichever occurs later, by December 15, coverage shall become
26 effective as of the following January 1. When that payment is
27 delivered or postmarked within the first 15 days of any subsequent
28 month, coverage shall become effective no later than the first day
29 of the following month. When that payment is delivered or
30 postmarked between December 16 and December 31, inclusive,
31 or after the 15th day of any subsequent month, coverage shall
32 become effective no later than the first day of the second month
33 following delivery or postmark of the payment.
34 (4) With respect to an individual health benefit plan offered
35 outside the Exchange for which an individual applies during a
36 special enrollment period described in subdivision (d), the
37 following provisions shall apply:
38 (A) When the individual submits a premium payment, based on
39 the quoted premium charges, and that payment is delivered or
40 postmarked, whichever occurs earlier, within the first 15 days of

1 *the month, coverage under the plan shall become effective no later*
2 *than the first day of the following month.*

3 *(B) When the premium payment is neither delivered nor*
4 *postmarked until after the 15th day of the month, coverage shall*
5 *become effective no later than the first day of the second month*
6 *following delivery or postmark of the payment.*

7 *(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), in the case of a*
8 *birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, the coverage shall be*
9 *effective on the date of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.*

10 *(D) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), in the case of*
11 *marriage or in the case where a qualified individual loses minimum*
12 *essential coverage, the coverage effective date shall be the first*
13 *day of the following month.*

14 *(5) With respect to individual health benefit plans offered*
15 *through the Exchange, the effective date of coverage selected*
16 *pursuant to this section shall be the same as the applicable date*
17 *specified in Section 155.410 or 155.420 of Title 45 of the Code of*
18 *Federal Regulations.*

19 *(g) On or after January 1, 2014, a health care service plan shall*
20 *not condition the issuance or offering of an individual health*
21 *benefit plan on any of the following factors:*

22 *(1) Health status.*

23 *(2) Medical condition, including physical and mental illnesses.*

24 *(3) Claims experience.*

25 *(4) Receipt of health care.*

26 *(5) Medical history.*

27 *(6) Genetic information.*

28 *(7) Evidence of insurability, including conditions arising out*
29 *of acts of domestic violence.*

30 *(8) Disability.*

31 *(9) Any other health status-related factor as determined by*
32 *department.*

33 *(h) A health care service plan offering coverage in the individual*
34 *market shall not reject the request of a subscriber during an open*
35 *enrollment period to include a dependent of the subscriber as a*
36 *dependent on an existing individual health benefit plan that*
37 *provides dependent coverage.*

38 *(i) This section shall not apply to a grandfathered health plan.*

1 1399.851. (a) Commencing January 1, 2014, no health care
2 service plan or solicitor shall, directly or indirectly, engage in the
3 following activities:

4 (1) Encourage or direct an individual to refrain from filing an
5 application for individual coverage with a plan because of the
6 health status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or
7 geographic location, provided that the location is within the plan's
8 approved service area, of the individual.

9 (2) Encourage or direct an individual to seek individual
10 coverage from another plan or health insurer or the California
11 Health Benefit Exchange because of the health status, claims
12 experience, industry, occupation, or geographic location, provided
13 that the location is within the plan's approved service area, of the
14 individual.

15 (b) Commencing January 1, 2014, a health care service plan
16 shall not, directly or indirectly, enter into any contract, agreement,
17 or arrangement with a solicitor that provides for or results in the
18 compensation paid to a solicitor for the sale of an individual health
19 benefit plan to be varied because of the health status, claims
20 experience, industry, occupation, or geographic location of the
21 individual. This subdivision does not apply to a compensation
22 arrangement that provides compensation to a solicitor on the basis
23 of percentage of premium, provided that the percentage shall not
24 vary because of the health status, claims experience, industry,
25 occupation, or geographic area of the individual.

26 (c) This section shall not apply to a grandfathered health plan.

27 1399.853. (a) All individual health benefit plans shall conform
28 to the requirements of Sections 1365, 1366.3, 1367.001, and
29 1373.6, and shall be renewable at the option of the enrollee except
30 as permitted to be canceled, rescinded, or not renewed pursuant
31 to Section 1365.

32 (b) Any plan that ceases to offer for sale new individual health
33 benefit plans pursuant to Section 1365 shall continue to be
34 governed by this article with respect to business conducted under
35 this article.

36 1399.855. (a) With respect to individual health benefit plans
37 issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, a health
38 care service plan may use only the following characteristics of an
39 individual, and any dependent thereof, for purposes of establishing
40 the rate of the individual health benefit plan covering the individual

1 *and the eligible dependents thereof, along with the health benefit*
2 *plan selected by the individual:*

3 *(1) Age, as described in regulations adopted by the department*
4 *in conjunction with the Department of Insurance that do not*
5 *prevent the application of PPACA. Rates based on age shall be*
6 *determined based on the individual's birthday and shall not vary*
7 *by more than three to one for adults.*

8 *(2) Geographic region. With respect to the 2014 plan year, the*
9 *geographic regions for purposes of rating shall be the same as*
10 *those used by a health benefit plan or contract entered into with*
11 *the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement*
12 *System pursuant to the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital*
13 *Care Act (Part 5 (commencing with Section 22750) of Division 5*
14 *of Title 2 of the Government Code). For subsequent plan years,*
15 *the geographic regions for purposes of rating shall be determined*
16 *by the Exchange in consultation with the department, the*
17 *Department of Insurance, and other private and public purchasers*
18 *of health care coverage.*

19 *(3) Family size, as described in PPACA.*

20 *(b) The rate for a health benefit plan subject to this section shall*
21 *not vary by any factor not described in this section.*

22 *(c) The rating period for rates subject to this section shall be*
23 *no less than 12 months.*

24 *(d) This section shall not apply to a grandfathered health plan.*

25 *1399.857. A health care service plan shall not be required to*
26 *offer an individual health benefit plan or accept applications for*
27 *the plan pursuant to this article in the case of any of the following:*

28 *(a) To an individual who does not work or reside within the*
29 *plan's approved service areas.*

30 *(b) (1) Within a specific service area or portion of a service*
31 *area, if the plan reasonably anticipates and demonstrates to the*
32 *satisfaction of the director that it will not have sufficient health*
33 *care delivery resources to ensure that health care services will be*
34 *available and accessible to the individual because of its obligations*
35 *to existing enrollees.*

36 *(2) A health care service plan that cannot offer an individual*
37 *health benefit plan to individuals because it is lacking in sufficient*
38 *health care delivery resources within a service area or a portion*
39 *of a service area may not offer a health benefit plan in the area in*
40 *which the plan is not offering coverage to individuals to new*

1 employer groups until the plan notifies the director that it has the
2 ability to deliver services to individuals, and certifies to the director
3 that from the date of the notice it will enroll all individuals
4 requesting coverage in that area from the plan.

5 (3) Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit the
6 director's authority to develop and implement a plan of
7 rehabilitation for a health care service plan whose financial
8 viability or organizational and administrative capacity has become
9 impaired.

10 1399.859. The director may require a health care service plan
11 to discontinue the offering of individual health benefit plans or
12 acceptance of applications from any individual upon a
13 determination by the director that the plan does not have sufficient
14 financial viability or organizational and administrative capacity
15 to ensure the delivery of health care services to its enrollees. In
16 determining whether the conditions of this section have been met,
17 the director shall consider, but not be limited to, the plan's
18 compliance with the requirements of Section 1367, Article 6
19 (commencing with Section 1375.1), and the rules adopted under
20 those provisions.

21 SEC. 6. Section 10198.7 of the Insurance Code is amended to
22 read:

23 10198.7. (a) No health benefit plan that covers three or more
24 persons and that is issued, renewed, or written by any insurer,
25 nonprofit hospital service plan, self-insured employee welfare
26 benefit plan, fraternal benefits society, or any other entity shall
27 exclude coverage for any individual on the basis of a preexisting
28 condition provision for a period greater than six months following
29 the individual's effective date of coverage, nor shall limit or
30 exclude coverage for a specific insured person by type of illness,
31 treatment, medical condition, or accident except for satisfaction
32 of a preexisting clause pursuant to this article. Preexisting condition
33 provisions contained in health benefit plans may relate only to
34 conditions for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment,
35 including use of prescription drugs, was recommended or received
36 from a licensed health practitioner during the six months
37 immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.

38 (b) No health benefit plan that covers one or two individuals
39 and that is issued, renewed, or written by any insurer, self-insured
40 employee welfare benefit plan, fraternal benefits society, or any

1 other entity shall exclude coverage on the basis of a preexisting
2 condition provision for a period greater than 12 months following
3 the individual's effective date of coverage, nor shall limit or
4 exclude coverage for a specific insured person by type of illness,
5 treatment, medical condition, or accident, except for satisfaction
6 of a preexisting condition clause pursuant to this article. Preexisting
7 condition provisions contained in health benefit plans may relate
8 only to conditions for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or
9 treatment, including use of prescription drugs, was recommended
10 or received from a licensed health practitioner during the 12 months
11 immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.

12 (c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a health benefit plan
13 for group coverage shall not impose any preexisting condition
14 provision upon any child under 19 years of age. *A health benefit*
15 *plan for group coverage issued, amended, or renewed on or after*
16 *January 1, 2014, shall not impose any preexisting condition*
17 *provision upon any individual.*

18 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a health benefit plan for
19 individual coverage that is *not* a grandfathered plan within the
20 meaning of Section 1251 of the federal Patient Protection and
21 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) shall not impose any
22 preexisting condition provision upon any child under 19 years of
23 age. *A health benefit plan for individual coverage that is issued,*
24 *amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, and that is not*
25 *a grandfathered health plan within the meaning of Section 1251*
26 *of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public*
27 *Law 111-148) shall not impose any preexisting condition provision*
28 *upon any individual.*

29 (d) A carrier that does not utilize a preexisting condition
30 provision may impose a waiting or affiliation period not to exceed
31 60 days, before the coverage issued subject to this article shall
32 become effective. During the waiting or affiliation period, the
33 carrier is not required to provide health care services and no
34 premium shall be charged to the subscriber or enrollee.

35 (e) A carrier that does not utilize a preexisting condition
36 provision in health plans that cover one or two individuals may
37 impose a contract provision excluding coverage for waived
38 conditions. No carrier may exclude coverage on the basis of a
39 waived condition for a period greater than 12 months following
40 the individual's effective date of coverage. A waived condition

1 provision contained in health benefit plans may relate only to
2 conditions for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment,
3 including use of prescription drugs, was recommended or received
4 from a licensed health practitioner during the 12 months
5 immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.

6 (f) In determining whether a preexisting condition provision, a
7 waived condition provision, or a waiting or affiliation period
8 applies to any person, all health benefit plans shall credit the time
9 the person was covered under creditable coverage, provided the
10 person becomes eligible for coverage under the succeeding health
11 benefit plan within 62 days of termination of prior coverage,
12 exclusive of any waiting or affiliation period, and applies for
13 coverage under the succeeding plan within the applicable
14 enrollment period. A health benefit plan shall also credit any time
15 an eligible employee must wait before enrolling in the health
16 benefit plan, including any affiliation or employer-imposed waiting
17 period. However, if a person's employment has ended, the
18 availability of health coverage offered through employment or
19 sponsored by an employer has terminated or, an employer's
20 contribution toward health coverage has terminated, a carrier shall
21 credit the time the person was covered under creditable coverage
22 if the person becomes eligible for health coverage offered through
23 employment or sponsored by an employer within 180 days,
24 exclusive of any waiting or affiliation period, and applies for
25 coverage under the succeeding plan within the applicable
26 enrollment period.

27 (g) No health benefit plan that covers three or more persons and
28 that is issued, renewed, or written by any insurer, nonprofit hospital
29 service plan, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, fraternal
30 benefits society, or any other entity may exclude late enrollees
31 from coverage for more than 12 months from the date of the late
32 enrollee's application for coverage. No insurer, nonprofit hospital
33 service plan, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, fraternal
34 benefits society, or any other entity shall require any premium or
35 other periodic charge to be paid by or on behalf of a late enrollee
36 during the period of exclusion from coverage permitted by this
37 subdivision.

38 (h) An individual's period of creditable coverage shall be
39 certified pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 2701 of Title XXVII
40 of the federal Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg(e).

1 (i) A group health benefit plan may not impose a preexisting
2 condition exclusion to a condition relating to benefits for pregnancy
3 or maternity care.

4 (j) Any entity providing aggregate or specific stop loss coverage
5 or any other assumption of risk with reference to a health benefit
6 plan shall provide that the plan meets all requirements of this article
7 concerning waiting periods, preexisting condition provisions, and
8 late enrollees.

9 *SEC. 7. The heading of Chapter 9.7 (commencing with Section*
10 *10950) of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code is amended*
11 *to read:*

12
13 CHAPTER 9.7. ~~INDIVIDUAL CHILD~~ ACCESS TO HEALTH
14 INSURANCE
15

16 *SEC. 8. Section 10954 of the Insurance Code is amended to*
17 *read:*

18 10954. (a) A carrier may use the following characteristics of
19 an eligible child for purposes of establishing the rate of the health
20 benefit plan for that child, where consistent with federal regulations
21 under PPACA: age, geographic region, and family composition,
22 plus the health benefit plan selected by the child or the responsible
23 party for a child.

24 (b) From the effective date of this chapter to December 31,
25 2013, inclusive, rates for a child applying for coverage shall be
26 subject to the following limitations:

27 (1) During any open enrollment period or for late enrollees, the
28 rate for any child due to health status shall not be more than two
29 times the standard risk rate for a child.

30 (2) The rate for a child shall be subject to a 20-percent surcharge
31 above the highest allowable rate on a child applying for coverage
32 who is not a late enrollee and who failed to maintain coverage with
33 any carrier or health care service plan for the 90-day period prior
34 to the date of the child's application. The surcharge shall apply
35 for the 12-month period following the effective date of the child's
36 coverage.

37 (3) If expressly permitted under PPACA and any rules,
38 regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to that act, a carrier may
39 rate a child based on health status during any period other than an
40 open enrollment period if the child is not a late enrollee.

1 (4) If expressly permitted under PPACA and any rules,
 2 regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to that act, a carrier may
 3 condition an offer or acceptance of coverage on any preexisting
 4 condition or other health status-related factor for a period other
 5 than an open enrollment period and for a child who is not a late
 6 enrollee.

7 (c) For any individual health benefit plan issued, sold, or
 8 renewed prior to December 31, 2013, the carrier shall provide to
 9 a child or responsible party for a child a notice that states the
 10 following:

11
 12 “Please consider your options carefully before failing to maintain
 13 or renew coverage for a child for whom you are responsible. If
 14 you attempt to obtain new individual coverage for that child, the
 15 premium for the same coverage may be higher than the premium
 16 you pay now.”

17
 18 (d) A child who applied for coverage between September 23,
 19 2010, and the end of the initial enrollment period shall be deemed
 20 to have maintained coverage during that period.

21 ~~(e) Effective January 1, 2014, except for individual~~
 22 ~~grandfathered health plan coverage, the rate for any child shall be~~
 23 ~~identical to the standard risk rate.~~

24 ~~(f)~~
 25 (e) Carriers may require documentation from applicants relating
 26 to their coverage history.

27 *SEC. 9. Section 10961 is added to the Insurance Code, to read:*
 28 *10961. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January*
 29 *1, 2014, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted*
 30 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2014, deletes or extends*
 31 *that date.*

32 *SEC. 10. Chapter 9.8 (commencing with Section 10965) is*
 33 *added to Part 2 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, to read:*

34
 35 *CHAPTER 9.8. INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE*

36
 37 *10965. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions*
 38 *shall apply:*

39 (a) *“Dependent” means the spouse or child of an individual,*
 40 *subject to applicable terms of the health benefit plan.*

1 (b) “Exchange” means the California Health Benefit Exchange
2 created by Section 100500 of the Government Code.

3 (c) “Grandfathered health plan” has the same meaning as that
4 term is defined in Section 1251 of PPACA.

5 (d) “Health benefit plan” means any individual or group health
6 insurance policy or health care service plan contract that provides
7 medical, hospital, and surgical benefits. The term does not include
8 accident only, credit, disability income, coverage of Medicare
9 services pursuant to contracts with the United States government,
10 Medicare supplement, long-term care insurance, dental, vision,
11 coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance, insurance
12 arising out of a workers’ compensation or similar law, automobile
13 medical payment insurance, or insurance under which benefits
14 are payable with or without regard to fault and that is statutorily
15 required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or
16 equivalent self-insurance.

17 (e) “PPACA” means the federal Patient Protection and
18 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
19 Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public
20 Law 111-152), and any subsequent rules or regulations issued
21 pursuant to that law.

22 (f) “Preexisting condition provision” means a policy provision
23 that excludes coverage for charges or expenses incurred during
24 a specified period following the insured’s effective date of
25 coverage, as to a condition for which medical advice, diagnosis,
26 care, or treatment was recommended or received during a specified
27 period immediately preceding the effective date of coverage.

28 (g) “Qualified health plan” has the same meaning as that term
29 is defined in Section 1301 of PPACA.

30 (h) “Rating period” means the period for which premium rates
31 established by an insurer are in effect.

32 10965.1. Every health insurer offering individual health benefit
33 plans shall, in addition to complying with the provisions of this
34 part and rules adopted thereunder, comply with the provisions of
35 this chapter.

36 10965.3. (a) (1) On and after January 1, 2014, a health
37 insurer shall fairly and affirmatively offer, market, and sell all of
38 the insurer’s health benefit plans that are sold in the individual
39 market to all individuals in each service area in which the insurer
40 provides or arranges for the provision of health care services. An

1 insurer shall limit enrollment to open enrollment periods and
2 special enrollment periods as provided in subdivisions (c) and (d).

3 (2) A health insurer that offers qualified health plans through
4 the Exchange shall be deemed to be in compliance with paragraph
5 (1) with respect to an individual health benefit plan offered through
6 the Exchange in those geographic regions in which the insurer
7 offers health benefit plans through the Exchange.

8 (b) An individual health benefit plan issued, amended, or
9 renewed shall not impose any preexisting condition provision upon
10 any individual.

11 (c) A health insurer shall provide an initial open enrollment
12 period from October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, inclusive, and
13 annual enrollment periods for plan years on or after January 1,
14 2015, from October 15 to December 7, inclusive, of the preceding
15 calendar year.

16 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), a health insurer shall allow an
17 individual to enroll in or change individual health benefit plans
18 as a result of the following triggering events:

19 (1) He or she loses minimum essential coverage. For purposes
20 of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

21 (A) "Minimum essential coverage" has the same meaning as
22 that term is defined in subsection (f) of Section 5000A of the
23 Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 5000A).

24 (B) "Loss of minimum essential coverage" includes loss of that
25 coverage due to the circumstances described in Section
26 54.9801-6(a)(3)(i) to (iii), inclusive, of Title 26 of the Code of
27 Federal Regulations. "Loss of minimum essential coverage" does
28 not include loss of that coverage due to the individual's failure to
29 pay premiums on a timely basis or situations allowing for a
30 rescission, subject to Section 10384.17.

31 (2) He or she gains a dependent or becomes a dependent
32 through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

33 (3) He or she becomes a California resident.

34 (4) He or she is mandated to be covered pursuant to a valid
35 state or federal court order.

36 (5) With respect to individual health benefit plans offered
37 through the Exchange, the individual meets any of the requirements
38 listed in Section 155.420(d)(3) of Title 45 of the Code of Federal
39 Regulations.

1 (e) *With respect to individual health benefit plans offered outside*
2 *the Exchange, an individual shall have 63 days from the date of a*
3 *triggering event identified in subdivision (d) to apply for coverage*
4 *from a health benefit plan subject to this section. With respect to*
5 *individual health benefit plans offered through the Exchange, an*
6 *individual shall have 63 days from the date of a triggering event*
7 *to select a plan offered through the Exchange.*

8 (f) (1) *With respect to individual health benefit plans offered*
9 *outside the Exchange, after an individual submits a completed*
10 *application form for a plan, the insurer shall, within 30 days, notify*
11 *the individual of the individual's actual premium charges for that*
12 *plan established in accordance with Section 10965.9. The*
13 *individual shall have 30 days in which to exercise the right to buy*
14 *coverage at the quoted premium charges.*

15 (2) *With respect to an individual health benefit plan offered*
16 *outside the Exchange for which an individual applies during the*
17 *initial open enrollment period described in subdivision (c), when*
18 *the individual submits a premium payment, based on the quoted*
19 *premium charges, and that payment is delivered or postmarked,*
20 *whichever occurs earlier, by December 15, 2013, coverage under*
21 *the individual health benefit plan shall become effective no later*
22 *than January 1, 2014, except that coverage for an individual under*
23 *19 years of age shall, at the option of the policyholder, become*
24 *effective as required under Section 10951. When that payment is*
25 *delivered or postmarked within the first 15 days of any subsequent*
26 *month, coverage shall become effective no later than the first day*
27 *of the following month. When that payment is delivered or*
28 *postmarked between December 16, 2013, and December 31, 2013,*
29 *inclusive, or after the 15th day of any subsequent month, coverage*
30 *shall become effective no later than the first day of the second*
31 *month following delivery or postmark of the payment.*

32 (3) *With respect to an individual health benefit plan offered*
33 *outside the Exchange for which an individual applies during the*
34 *annual open enrollment period described in subdivision (c), when*
35 *the individual submits a premium payment, based on the quoted*
36 *premium charges, and that payment is delivered or postmarked,*
37 *whichever occurs later, by December 15, coverage shall become*
38 *effective as of the following January 1. When that payment is*
39 *delivered or postmarked within the first 15 days of any subsequent*
40 *month, coverage shall become effective no later than the first day*

1 of the following month. When that payment is delivered or
2 postmarked between December 16 and December 31, inclusive,
3 or after the 15th day of any subsequent month, coverage shall
4 become effective no later than the first day of the second month
5 following delivery or postmark of the payment.

6 (4) With respect to an individual health benefit plan offered
7 outside the Exchange for which an individual applies during a
8 special enrollment period described in subdivision (d), the
9 following provisions shall apply:

10 (A) When the individual submits a premium payment, based on
11 the quoted premium charges, and that payment is delivered or
12 postmarked, whichever occurs earlier, within the first 15 days of
13 the month, coverage under the plan shall become effective no later
14 than the first day of the following month.

15 (B) When the premium payment is neither delivered nor
16 postmarked until after the 15th day of the month, coverage shall
17 become effective no later than the first day of the second month
18 following delivery or postmark of the payment.

19 (C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), in the case of a
20 birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, the coverage shall be
21 effective on the date of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

22 (D) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), in the case of
23 marriage or in the case where a qualified individual loses minimum
24 essential coverage, the coverage effective date shall be the first
25 day of the following month.

26 (5) With respect to individual health benefit plans offered
27 through the Exchange, the effective date of coverage selected
28 pursuant to this section shall be the same as the applicable date
29 specified in Section 155.410 or 155.420 of Title 45 of the Code of
30 Federal Regulations.

31 (g) On or after January 1, 2014, a health insurer shall not
32 condition the issuance or offering of an individual health benefit
33 plan on any of the following factors:

34 (1) Health status.

35 (2) Medical condition, including physical and mental illnesses.

36 (3) Claims experience.

37 (4) Receipt of health care.

38 (5) Medical history.

39 (6) Genetic information.

1 (7) Evidence of insurability, including conditions arising out
2 of acts of domestic violence.

3 (8) Disability.

4 (9) Any other health status-related factor as determined by
5 department.

6 (h) A health insurer offering coverage in the individual market
7 shall not reject the request of a policyholder during an open
8 enrollment period to include a dependent of the policyholder as a
9 dependent on an existing individual health benefit plan that
10 provides dependent coverage.

11 (i) This section shall not apply to a grandfathered health plan.

12 10965.5. (a) Commencing January 1, 2014, no health insurer
13 or agent or broker shall, directly or indirectly, engage in the
14 following activities:

15 (1) Encourage or direct an individual to refrain from filing an
16 application for individual coverage with an insurer because of the
17 health status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or
18 geographic location, provided that the location is within the
19 insurer's approved service area, of the individual.

20 (2) Encourage or direct an individual to seek individual
21 coverage from another health care service plan or health insurer
22 or the California Health Benefit Exchange because of the health
23 status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or geographic
24 location, provided that the location is within the insurer's approved
25 service area, of the individual.

26 (b) Commencing January 1, 2014, a health insurer shall not,
27 directly or indirectly, enter into any contract, agreement, or
28 arrangement with a broker or agent that provides for or results
29 in the compensation paid to a broker or agent for the sale of an
30 individual health benefit plan to be varied because of the health
31 status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or geographic
32 location of the individual. This subdivision does not apply to a
33 compensation arrangement that provides compensation to a broker
34 or agent on the basis of percentage of premium, provided that the
35 percentage shall not vary because of the health status, claims
36 experience, industry, occupation, or geographic area of the
37 individual.

38 (c) This section shall not apply to a grandfathered health plan.

39 10965.7. (a) All individual health benefit plans shall conform
40 to the requirements of Sections 10112.1, 10127.18, 10273.4, and

1 12682.1, and shall be renewable at the option of the insured except
2 as permitted to be canceled, rescinded, or not renewed pursuant
3 to Section 10273.4.

4 (b) Any insurer that ceases to offer for sale new individual health
5 benefit plans pursuant to Section 10273.4 shall continue to be
6 governed by this chapter with respect to business conducted under
7 this chapter.

8 10965.9. (a) With respect to individual health benefit plans
9 issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, a health
10 insurer may use only the following characteristics of an individual,
11 and any dependent thereof, for purposes of establishing the rate
12 of the individual health benefit plan covering the individual and
13 the eligible dependents thereof, along with the health benefit plan
14 selected by the individual:

15 (1) Age, as described in regulations adopted by the department
16 in conjunction with the Department of Managed Health Care that
17 do not prevent the application of PPACA. Rates based on age shall
18 be determined based on the individual's birthday and shall not
19 vary by more than three to one for adults.

20 (2) Geographic region. With respect to the 2014 plan year, the
21 geographic regions for purposes of rating shall be the same as
22 those used by a health benefit plan or contract entered into with
23 the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement
24 System pursuant to the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital
25 Care Act (Part 5 (commencing with Section 22750) of Division 5
26 of Title 2 of the Government Code). For subsequent plan years,
27 the geographic regions for purposes of rating shall be determined
28 by the Exchange in consultation with the department, the
29 Department of Managed Health Care, and other private and public
30 purchasers of health care coverage.

31 (3) Family size, as described in PPACA.

32 (b) The rate for a health benefit plan subject to this section shall
33 not vary by any factor not described in this section.

34 (c) The rating period for rates subject to this section shall be
35 no less than 12 months.

36 (d) This section shall not apply to a grandfathered health plan.

37 10965.11. A health insurer shall not be required to offer an
38 individual health benefit plan or accept applications for the plan
39 pursuant to this chapter in the case of any of the following:

1 (a) To an individual who does not work or reside within the
2 insurer's approved service areas.

3 (b) (1) Within a specific service area or portion of a service
4 area, if the insurer reasonably anticipates and demonstrates to
5 the satisfaction of the commissioner that it will not have sufficient
6 health care delivery resources to ensure that health care services
7 will be available and accessible to the individual because of its
8 obligations to existing insureds.

9 (2) A health insurer that cannot offer an individual health benefit
10 plan to individuals because it is lacking in sufficient health care
11 delivery resources within a service area or a portion of a service
12 area may not offer a health benefit plan in the area in which the
13 insurer is not offering coverage to individuals to new employer
14 groups until the insurer notifies the commissioner that it has the
15 ability to deliver services to individuals, and certifies to the
16 commissioner that from the date of the notice it will enroll all
17 individuals requesting coverage in that area from the insurer.

18 (3) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the
19 commissioner's authority to develop and implement a plan of
20 rehabilitation for a health insurer whose financial viability or
21 organizational and administrative capacity has become impaired.

22 10965.13. The commissioner may require a health insurer to
23 discontinue the offering of individual health benefit plans or
24 acceptance of applications from any individual upon a
25 determination by the commissioner that the insurer does not have
26 sufficient financial viability or organizational and administrative
27 capacity to ensure the delivery of health care services to its
28 insureds. In determining whether the conditions of this section
29 have been met, the commissioner shall consider, but not be limited
30 to, the insurer's compliance with the requirements of this part and
31 the rules adopted under those provisions.

32 SECTION 1. ~~Section 1374.59 is added to the Health and Safety~~
33 ~~Code, to read:~~

34 ~~1374.59. (a) To the extent required by federal law, every health~~
35 ~~care service plan contract, except a specialized health care service~~
36 ~~plan contract, shall comply with the following provisions related~~
37 ~~to the offer, sale, issuance, and renewal of health care service plan~~
38 ~~contracts, consistent with federal law and implementing rules,~~
39 ~~regulations, and federal guidance:~~

1 ~~(1) Guaranteed availability of coverage pursuant to Section~~
2 ~~2702 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-1):~~

3 ~~(2) Guaranteed renewability of coverage pursuant to Section~~
4 ~~2703 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-2):~~

5 ~~(3) The portability and nondiscrimination provisions in Sections~~
6 ~~2701, 2704, and 2705 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.~~
7 ~~Sees. 300gg, 300gg-3, and 300gg-4):~~

8 ~~(b) The department shall consult and coordinate with the~~
9 ~~Insurance Commissioner in the implementation and enforcement~~
10 ~~of this section to ensure uniform and consistent rules, regulations,~~
11 ~~guidance, and enforcement for health care service plans sold to~~
12 ~~individuals in this state.~~

13 ~~(c) In implementing this section, the department shall, in~~
14 ~~addition to the requirements in subdivision (b), consult and~~
15 ~~coordinate with the California Health Benefit Exchange established~~
16 ~~pursuant to Section 100500 of the Government Code.~~

17 ~~SEC. 2.~~

18 *SEC. 11.* No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
19 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
20 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
21 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
22 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
23 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
24 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
25 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
26 Constitution.

AB 154 (Beall) – Health Care Coverage: Mental Health Services

Introduced January 18, 2011, Amended January 23, 2012

Requires health plans and health insurers to cover the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of a mental illness, as defined, of a person of any age, with specified exceptions, and not limited to coverage for severe mental illness (SMI) as in existing law. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires health plans and those health insurance policies that provide coverage for hospital, medical, or surgical expenses, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of a mental illness of a person of any age, including a child, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions, including but not limited to maximum lifetime benefits, copayments, and individual and family deductibles. Existing law only requires such coverage for SMIs, as defined.
- 2) Defines mental illness as a mental disorder classified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV (DSM-IV) and includes coverage for substance abuse. Requires the benefits provided under this bill to include outpatient services; inpatient hospital services; partial hospital services; and, prescription drugs, if the plan contract already includes coverage for prescription drugs.
- 3) Excludes treatment of nicotine addiction and certain illnesses under the "V" code designation in the DSM-IV, such as adult antisocial behavior and bereavement, among others, from the definition in 2) above.
- 4) Requires, following publication of each subsequent volume of the DSM-IV, the definition of "mental illness" to be subject to revision to conform to, in whole or in part, the list of mental disorders defined in the then-current volume of the DSM-IV.
- 5) Requires any revision to the definition of "mental illness" pursuant to 4) above to be established by regulation promulgated jointly by the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and the Department of Insurance.
- 6) Allows a health plan or health insurer to provide coverage for all or part of the mental health coverage required by this bill through a specialized health care service plan or mental health plan and prohibits the health plan or health insurer from being required to obtain an additional or specialized license for this purpose.
- 7) Requires a health plan or health insurer to provide the mental health coverage required by this bill in its entire service area and in emergency situations, as specified.
- 8) Permits a health plan and health insurer to utilize case management, network providers, utilization review techniques, prior authorization, copayments, or other share-of-cost requirements, to the extent allowed by law or regulation, in the provision of benefits required by this bill.

9) Clarifies that nothing in this bill shall be construed to deny or restrict in any way DMHC's authority to ensure a health plan's compliance with this bill when the plan provides prescription drug coverage.

10) Clarifies that, with regard to health insurance policies, any action a health insurer takes to implement this bill, including, but not limited to, contracting with preferred provider organizations, shall not be deemed as an action that would otherwise require licensure as a health care service plan, as specified.

11) Exempts contracts between the Department of Health Care Services and a health plan for enrolled Medi-Cal beneficiaries and plans administered by Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board from the provisions of this bill.

12) Prohibits a health care benefit plan, contract, or health insurance policy with the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System from applying to this bill unless board elects to purchase a plan, contract, or policy that provides mental health benefits mandated under this bill.

13) Exempts accident-only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, dental-only, or vision-only plans or insurance policies, except behavioral health-only policies, from the provisions of this bill.

14) Prohibits this bill from being deemed to require a qualified health plan that participates in the California Health Benefit Exchange to provide any greater coverage than is required under the minimum essential benefits package set forth in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

According to the author, individuals struggling with mental illness quickly exhaust limited coverage and personal savings and become dependent upon taxpayer-supported benefits. The author notes that annual national costs for mental illness are an estimated \$23 billion in lost work days to employers and another \$150 billion in treatment, social services, and lost productivity. The author maintains that many people in our society with mental illness and substance abuse problems are unable to obtain treatment and, as a result, wind up in counties' indigent health care pool, emergency rooms, and state and county jails. This bill is intended to end discrimination against patients with mental health/substance abuse (MH/SA) issues by requiring treatment and coverage of these illnesses that is equitable to coverage provided for other medical illnesses. Since SMI services are already covered under current law, this bill focuses on the incremental effect of extending parity to non-SMI and substance abuse disorders, with certain exceptions.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 23, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 154

Introduced by Assembly Member Beall
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano and Dickinson)

January 18, 2011

An act to add Section 22856 to the Government Code, to add Section ~~1374.74~~ 1374.76 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10144.8 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 154, as amended, Beall. Health care coverage: mental health services.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Under existing law, a health care service plan contract and a health insurance policy are required to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of severe mental illnesses of a person of any age. Existing law does not define *the term* "severe mental illnesses" for this purpose but describes it as including several conditions.

This bill would expand this coverage requirement for certain health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, ~~2012~~ 2013, to include the diagnosis and treatment of a mental illness of a person of any age and

would define mental illness for this purpose as a mental disorder defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (*DSM-IV*), including substance abuse but excluding nicotine dependence and specified diagnoses defined in the manual, subject to regulatory revision, as specified. The bill would specify that this requirement does not apply to a health care benefit plan, contract, or health insurance policy with the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System unless the board elects to purchase a plan, contract, or policy that provides mental health coverage.

This bill would also exempt certain health care service contracts entered into by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board from its provisions.

Because this bill would expand coverage requirements for health care service plans, the willful violation of which would be a crime, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 22856 is added to the Government Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 22856. The board may purchase a health care benefit plan or
- 4 contract or a health insurance policy that includes mental health
- 5 coverage as described in Section ~~1374.74~~ 1374.76 of the Health
- 6 and Safety Code or Section 10144.8 of the Insurance Code.
- 7 SEC. 2. Section ~~1374.74~~ 1374.76 is added to the Health and
- 8 Safety Code, *immediately following Section 1374.74*, to read:
- 9 ~~1374.74.~~
- 10 1374.76. (a) A health care service plan contract issued,
- 11 amended, or renewed on or after January 1, ~~2012~~ 2013, that
- 12 provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage shall provide
- 13 coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of
- 14 a mental illness of a person of any age, including a child, under
- 15 the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions

1 as specified in subdivision (c) of Section 1374.72. The benefits
2 provided under this section shall include all those set forth in
3 subdivision (b) of Section 1374.72.

4 (b) (1) "Mental illness" for the purposes of this section means
5 a mental disorder defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
6 of Mental Disorders IV (*DSM-IV*), published by the American
7 Psychiatric Association, and includes substance abuse, but excludes
8 treatment of the following diagnoses, all as defined in the manual:

9 (A) Noncompliance With Treatment (V15.81).

10 (B) Partner Relational Problem (V61.1).

11 (C) Physical/Sexual Abuse of an Adult (V61.12).

12 (D) Parent-Child Relational Problem (V61.20).

13 (E) Child Neglect (V61.21).

14 (F) Physical/Sexual Abuse of a Child (V61.21).

15 (G) Sibling Relational Problem (V61.8).

16 (H) Relational Problem Related to a Mental Disorder or General
17 Medical Condition (V61.9).

18 (I) Occupational Problem (V62.29).

19 (J) Academic Problem (V62.3).

20 (K) Acculturation Problem (V62.4).

21 (L) Relational Problems (V62.81).

22 (M) Bereavement (V62.82).

23 (N) Physical/Sexual Abuse of an Adult (V62.83).

24 (O) Borderline Intellectual Functioning (V62.89).

25 (P) Phase of Life Problem (V62.89).

26 (Q) Religious or Spiritual Problem (V62.89).

27 (R) Malingering (V65.2).

28 (S) Adult Antisocial Behavior (V71.01).

29 (T) Child or Adolescent Antisocial Behavior (V71.02).

30 (U) There is not a Diagnosis or a Condition on Axis I (V71.09).

31 (V) There is not a Diagnosis on Axis II (V71.09).

32 (W) Nicotine Dependence (305.10).

33 (2) Following publication of each subsequent volume of the
34 manual, the definition of "mental illness" shall be subject to
35 revision to conform to, in whole or in part, the list of mental
36 disorders defined in the then-current volume of the manual.

37 (3) Any revision to the definition of "mental illness" pursuant
38 to paragraph (2) shall be established by regulation promulgated
39 jointly by the department and the Department of Insurance.

1 (c) (1) For the purpose of compliance with this section, a plan
2 may provide coverage for all or part of the mental health services
3 required by this section through a separate specialized health care
4 service plan or mental health plan and shall not be required to
5 obtain an additional or specialized license for this purpose.

6 (2) A plan shall provide the mental health coverage required by
7 this section in its entire service area and in emergency situations
8 as may be required by applicable laws and regulations. For
9 purposes of this section, health care service plan contracts that
10 provide benefits to enrollees through preferred provider contracting
11 arrangements are not precluded from requiring enrollees who reside
12 or work in geographic areas served by specialized health care
13 service plans or mental health plans to secure all or part of their
14 mental health services within those geographic areas served by
15 specialized health care service plans or mental health plans.

16 (3) In the provision of benefits required by this section, a health
17 care service plan may utilize case management, network providers,
18 utilization review techniques, prior authorization, copayments, or
19 other cost sharing to the extent permitted by law or regulation.

20 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny or restrict
21 in any way the department's authority to ensure plan compliance
22 with this chapter when a plan provides coverage for prescription
23 drugs.

24 (e) This section shall not apply to contracts entered into pursuant
25 to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) or Chapter 8
26 (commencing with Section 14200) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the
27 Welfare and Institutions Code, between the State Department of
28 Health Care Services and a health care service plan for enrolled
29 Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

30 (f) This section shall not apply to a health care benefit plan or
31 contract entered into with the Board of Administration of the Public
32 Employees' Retirement System pursuant to the Public Employees'
33 Medical and Hospital Care Act (Part 5 (commencing with Section
34 22750) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code) unless
35 the board elects, pursuant to Section 22856 of the Government
36 Code, to purchase a health care benefit plan or contract that
37 provides mental health coverage as described in this section.

38 (g) This section shall not apply to accident-only, specified
39 disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, dental-only, or
40 vision-only health care service plan contracts.

1 (h) This section shall not apply to contracts between the
2 Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board and health care service
3 plans pursuant to the California Major Risk Medical Insurance
4 Program (Part 6.5 (commencing with Section 12700) of the
5 Insurance Code) or the Access for Infants and Mothers Program
6 (Part 6.3 (commencing with Section 12695) of the Insurance Code).

7 SEC. 3. Section 10144.8 is added to the Insurance Code, to
8 read:

9 10144.8. (a) A policy of health insurance that covers hospital,
10 medical, or surgical expenses in this state that is issued, amended,
11 or renewed on or after January 1, ~~2012~~ 2013, shall provide coverage
12 for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of a mental
13 illness of a person of any age, including a child, under the same
14 terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions as
15 specified in subdivision (c) of Section 10144.5. The benefits
16 provided under this section shall include all those set forth in
17 subdivision (b) of Section 10144.5.

18 (b) (1) "Mental illness" for the purposes of this section means
19 a mental disorder defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
20 of Mental Disorders IV (*DSM-IV*), published by the American
21 Psychiatric Association, and includes substance abuse, but excludes
22 treatment of the following diagnoses, all as defined in the manual:

- 23 (A) Noncompliance With Treatment (V15.81).
- 24 (B) Partner Relational Problem (V61.1).
- 25 (C) Physical/Sexual Abuse of an Adult (V61.12).
- 26 (D) Parent-Child Relational Problem (V61.20).
- 27 (E) Child Neglect (V61.21).
- 28 (F) Physical/Sexual Abuse of a Child (V61.21).
- 29 (G) Sibling Relational Problem (V61.8).
- 30 (H) Relational Problem Related to a Mental Disorder or General
31 Medical Condition (V61.9).
- 32 (I) Occupational Problem (V62.29).
- 33 (J) Academic Problem (V62.3).
- 34 (K) Acculturation Problem (V62.4).
- 35 (L) Relational Problems (V62.81).
- 36 (M) Bereavement (V62.82).
- 37 (N) Physical/Sexual Abuse of an Adult (V62.83).
- 38 (O) Borderline Intellectual Functioning (V62.89).
- 39 (P) Phase of Life Problem (V62.89).
- 40 (Q) Religious or Spiritual Problem (V62.89).

- 1 (R) Malingering (V65.2).
- 2 (S) Adult Antisocial Behavior (V71.01).
- 3 (T) Child or Adolescent Antisocial Behavior (V71.02).
- 4 (U) There is not a Diagnosis or a Condition on Axis I (V71.09).
- 5 (V) There is not a Diagnosis on Axis II (V71.09).
- 6 (W) Nicotine Dependence (305.10).

7 (2) Following publication of each subsequent volume of the
8 manual, the definition of “mental illness” shall be subject to
9 revision to conform to, in whole or in part, the list of mental
10 disorders defined in the then-current volume of the manual.

11 (3) Any revision to the definition of “mental illness” pursuant
12 to paragraph (2) shall be established by regulation promulgated
13 jointly by the department and the Department of Managed Health
14 Care.

15 (c) (1) For the purpose of compliance with this section, a health
16 insurer may provide coverage for all or part of the mental health
17 services required by this section through a separate specialized
18 health care service plan or mental health plan and shall not be
19 required to obtain an additional or specialized license for this
20 purpose.

21 (2) A health insurer shall provide the mental health coverage
22 required by this section in its entire in-state service area and in
23 emergency situations as may be required by applicable laws and
24 regulations. For purposes of this section, health insurers are not
25 precluded from requiring insureds who reside or work in
26 geographic areas served by specialized health care service plans
27 or mental health plans to secure all or part of their mental health
28 services within those geographic areas served by specialized health
29 care service plans or mental health plans.

30 (3) In the provision of benefits required by this section, a health
31 insurer may utilize case management, managed care, or utilization
32 review to the extent permitted by law or regulation.

33 (4) Any action that a health insurer takes to implement this
34 section, including, but not limited to, contracting with preferred
35 provider organizations, shall not be deemed to be an action that
36 would otherwise require licensure as a health care service plan
37 under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975
38 (Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of
39 the Health and Safety Code).

1 (d) This section shall not apply to accident-only, specified
2 disease, hospital indemnity, or Medicare supplement insurance
3 policies, or specialized health insurance policies, except behavioral
4 health-only policies.

5 (e) This section shall not apply to a policy of health insurance
6 purchased by the Board of Administration of the Public Employees'
7 Retirement System pursuant to the Public Employees' Medical
8 and Hospital Care Act (Part 5 (commencing with Section 22750)
9 of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code) unless the board
10 elects, pursuant to Section 22856 of the Government Code, to
11 purchase a policy of health insurance that covers mental health
12 services as described in this section.

13 SEC. 4. This act shall not be deemed to require a qualified
14 health plan that participates in the California Health Benefit
15 Exchange to provide any greater coverage than is required pursuant
16 to the minimum essential benefits package, as set forth in Section
17 1311 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
18 (Public Law 111-148).

19 SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
20 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
21 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
22 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
23 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
24 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
25 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
26 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
27 Constitution.

