AB 1453 (Monning) – Essential Health Benefits

Introduced January 5, 2012, Chaptered September 30, 2012

This bill establishes the Kaiser Small Group HMO 30 plan as the Essential Health Benefit (EHB) benchmark plan for individual and small group health plan products licensed by the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC). Makes the enactment of this bill contingent upon the enactment of SB 951 (Ed Hernandez).

Specifically, this bill:

1) Requires individual and small group health plan contracts, both inside and outside of the 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. Prohibits scope and duration limits from exceeding the scope and duration limits imposed on those services by the Kaiser Small Group HMO plan contract.

4) Requires habilitative services to be provided for the same services as, 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.

8) Requires this bill go into effect to the extent that federal health benefits are required, and that medically necessary basic health services are covered.

Senate amendments August 23, 2012:

1) Specify that health benefits covered by the Kaiser Small Group HMO 30 plan regardless of whether the benefits are specifically referenced in the evidence of coverage or plan contract are benchmark benefits.

2) Specify that where there are any conflicts or omissions in the plan as compared with the requirements for health benefits under this bill that were enacted prior to December 31, 2011, Knox-Keene shall control unless otherwise specified.

3) Revise the benchmark for pediatric oral to be the same as Healthy Families in 2011-12 including medically necessary orthodontia.

4) Revise the definition of habilitation services and device, and define health benefits.

5) Require the Paul Wellstone and Peter Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAE) to apply and that coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services along with scope and duration limits shall be in compliance with MHPAE mental health and substance abuse benefits to comply with federal mental health parity and all rules, regulations, or guidance issued, as specified.

6) Require the coverage of medically necessary basic health care services, as defined.

7) Authorize a plan to substitute its prescription drug formulary for the formulary provided under the Kaiser Small Group HMO 30 plan as long as the coverage for prescription drugs complies with specified sections of this bill.

8) Require this bill to be implemented to the extent EHBs are required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), state that nothing in this bill shall be implemented in a manner that conflicts with a requirement of the ACA, and an EHB is required only to the extent that federal law does not require the state to defray the costs of the benefit.

9) Authorize DMHC to adopt emergency regulations, and sunset this authority on March 1, 2016.

10) Apply this bill's provisions only to the Health and Safety Code.

11) Make this bill's enactment contingent upon the enactment of SB 951 (Ed Hernandez).

Assembly Bill No. 1453

Passed the Assembly August 29, 2012

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Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 28, 2012

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Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of _____, 2012, at _____ o'clock ___M.

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Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1453, Monning. 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 requires health care service plan contracts to cover various benefits.

This bill would require an individual or small group health care service plan contract issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, to cover essential health benefits, which would be defined to include the health benefits covered by particular benchmark plans. The bill would prohibit treatment limits imposed on these benefits from exceeding the corresponding limits imposed by the benchmark plans and would generally prohibit a plan from making substitutions of the benefits required to be covered. The bill would specify that these provisions apply regardless of whether the contract is offered inside or outside the Exchange but would provide that they do not apply to grandfathered plans, specialized

plans, or Medicare supplement plans, as specified. The bill would prohibit a health care service plan from issuing, delivering, renewing, offering, selling, or marketing a plan contract as compliant with the federal essential health benefits requirement satisfies the bill's requirements. The bill would authorize the Department of Managed Health Care to adopt emergency regulations implementing these provisions until March 1, 2016, and would enact other related provisions.

These provisions would only be implemented to the extent essential health benefits are required pursuant to PPACA. The bill would provide that it shall become operative only if SB 951 is also enacted.

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.

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

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

(a) Commencing January 1, 2014, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires a health insurance issuer that offers coverage to small employers or individuals, both inside and outside of the California Health Benefit Exchange, with the exception of grandfathered plans as defined under Section 1251 of PPACA, to provide minimum coverage that includes essential health benefits, as defined.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to comply with federal law and consistently implement the essential health benefits provisions of PPACA and related federal guidance and regulations, by adopting the uniform minimum essential benefits requirement in state-regulated health care coverage regardless of whether the policy or contract is regulated by the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance and regardless of

whether the policy or contract is offered to individuals or small employers inside or outside of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

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

1367.005. (a) An individual or small group health care service plan contract issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, shall, at a minimum, include coverage for essential health benefits pursuant to PPACA and as outlined in this section. For purposes of this section, "essential health benefits" means all of the following:

(1) Health benefits within the categories identified in Section 1302(b) of PPACA: ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services, including oral and vision care.

(2) (A) The health benefits covered by the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Small Group HMO 30 plan (federal health product identification number 40513CA035) as this plan was offered during the first quarter of 2012, as follows, regardless of whether the benefits are specifically referenced in the evidence of coverage or plan contract for that plan:

(i) Medically necessary basic health care services, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1345 and in Section 1300.67 of Title 28 of the California Code of Regulations.

(ii) The health benefits mandated to be covered by the plan pursuant to statutes enacted before December 31, 2011, as described in the following sections: Sections 1367.002, 1367.06, and 1367.35 (preventive services for children); Section 1367.25 (prescription drug coverage for contraceptives); Section 1367.45 (AIDS vaccine); Section 1367.46 (HIV testing); Section 1367.51 (diabetes); Section 1367.54 (alpha feto protein testing); Section 1367.6 (breast cancer screening); Section 1367.61 (prosthetics for laryngectomy); Section 1367.62 (maternity hospital stay); Section 1367.63 (reconstructive surgery); Section 1367.635 (mastectomies); Section 1367.64 (prostate cancer); Section 1367.65 (mammography); Section 1367.66 (cervical cancer); Section

1367.665 (cancer screening tests); Section 1367.67 (osteoporosis); Section 1367.68 (surgical procedures for jaw bones); Section 1367.71 (anesthesia for dental); Section 1367.9 (conditions attributable to diethylstilbestrol); Section 1368.2 (hospice care); Section 1370.6 (cancer clinical trials); Section 1371.5 (emergency response ambulance or ambulance transport services); subdivision (b) of Section 1373 (sterilization operations or procedures); Section 1373.4 (inpatient hospital and ambulatory maternity); Section 1374.56 (phenylketonuria); Section 1374.17 (organ transplants for HIV); Section 1374.72 (mental health parity); and Section 1374.73 (autism/behavioral health treatment).

(iii) Any other benefits mandated to be covered by the plan pursuant to statutes enacted before December 31, 2011, as described in those statutes.

(iv) The health benefits covered by the plan that are not otherwise required to be covered under this chapter, to the extent required pursuant to Sections 1367.18, 1367.21, 1367.215, 1367.22, 1367.24, and 1367.25, and Section 1300.67.24 of Title 28 of the California Code of Regulations.

(v) Any other health benefits covered by the plan that are not otherwise required to be covered under this chapter.

(B) Where there are any conflicts or omissions in the plan identified in subparagraph (A) as compared with the requirements for health benefits under this chapter that were enacted prior to December 31, 2011, the requirements of this chapter shall be controlling, except as otherwise specified in this section.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) or any other provision of this section, the home health services benefits covered under the plan identified in subparagraph (A) shall be deemed to not be in conflict with this chapter.

(D) For purposes of this section, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343) shall apply to a contract subject to this section. Coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services pursuant to this paragraph, along with any scope and duration limits imposed on the benefits, shall be in compliance with the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343), and all rules, regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to Section 2726 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-26).

(3) With respect to habilitative services, in addition to any habilitative services identified in paragraph (2), coverage shall also be provided as required by federal rules, regulations, and guidance issued pursuant to Section 1302(b) of PPACA. Habilitative services shall be covered under the same terms and conditions applied to rehabilitative services under the plan contract.

(4) With respect to pediatric vision care, the same health benefits for pediatric vision care covered under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program vision plan with the largest national enrollment as of the first quarter of 2012. The pediatric vision care benefits covered pursuant to this paragraph shall be in addition to, and shall not replace, any vision services covered under the plan identified in paragraph (2).

(5) With respect to pediatric oral care, the same health benefits for pediatric oral care covered under the dental plan available to subscribers of the Healthy Families Program in 2011–12, including the provision of medically necessary orthodontic care provided pursuant to the federal Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. The pediatric oral care benefits covered pursuant to this paragraph shall be in addition to, and shall not replace, any dental or orthodontic services covered under the plan identified in paragraph (2).

(b) Treatment limitations imposed on health benefits described in this section shall be no greater than the treatment limitations imposed by the corresponding plans identified in subdivision (a), subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

(c) Except as provided in subdivision (d), nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a health care service plan to make substitutions for the benefits required to be covered under this section, regardless of whether those substitutions are actuarially equivalent.

(d) To the extent permitted under Section 1302 of PPACA and any rules, regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to that section, and to the extent that substitution would not create an obligation for the state to defray costs for any individual, a plan may substitute its prescription drug formulary for the formulary provided under the plan identified in subdivision (a) as long as the coverage for prescription drugs complies with the sections referenced in clauses

(ii) and (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) that apply to prescription drugs.

(e) No health care service plan, or its agent, solicitor, or representative, shall issue, deliver, renew, offer, market, represent, or sell any product, contract, or discount arrangement as compliant with the essential health benefits requirement in federal law, unless it meets all of the requirements of this section.

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

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a plan or a plan contract from meeting other applicable requirements of law.

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

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

(1) A specialized health care service plan contract.

(2) A Medicare supplement plan.

(3) A plan contract that qualifies as a grandfathered health plan under Section 1251 of PPACA or any rules, regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to that section.

(j) Nothing in this section shall be implemented in a manner that conflicts with a requirement of PPACA.

(k) This section shall be implemented only to the extent essential health benefits are required pursuant to PPACA.

(*l*) An essential health benefit is required to be provided under this section only to the extent that federal law does not require the state to defray the costs of the benefit.

(m) Nothing in this section shall obligate the state to incur costs for the coverage of benefits that are not essential health benefits as defined in this section.

(n) A plan is not required to cover, under this section, changes to health benefits that are the result of statutes enacted on or after December 31, 2011.

(o) (1) The department may adopt emergency regulations implementing this section. The department may, on a one-time basis, readopt any emergency regulation authorized by this section

that is the same as, or substantially equivalent to, an emergency regulation previously adopted under this section.

(2) The initial adoption of emergency regulations implementing this section and the readoption of emergency regulations authorized by this subdivision shall be deemed an emergency and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The initial emergency regulations and the readoption of emergency regulations authorized by this section shall be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for filing with the Secretary of State and each shall remain in effect for no more than 180 days, by which time final regulations may be adopted.

(3) The director shall consult with the Insurance Commissioner to ensure consistency and uniformity in the development of regulations under this subdivision.

(4) This subdivision shall become inoperative on March 1, 2016.

(p) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Habilitative services" means medically necessary health care services and health care devices that assist an individual in partially or fully acquiring or improving skills and functioning and that are necessary to address a health condition, to the maximum extent practical. These services address the skills and abilities needed for functioning in interaction with an individual's environment. Examples of health care services that are not habilitative services include, but are not limited to, respite care, day care, recreational care, residential treatment, social services, custodial care, or education services of any kind, including, but not limited to, vocational training. Habilitative services shall be covered under the same terms and conditions applied to rehabilitative services under the plan contract.

(2) (A) "Health benefits," unless otherwise required to be defined pursuant to federal rules, regulations, or guidance issued pursuant to Section 1302(b) of PPACA, means health care items or services for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of illness, injury, disease, or a health condition, including a behavioral health condition.

(B) "Health benefits" does not mean any cost-sharing requirements such as copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

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

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

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

SEC. 4. This act shall become operative only if Senate Bill 951 of the 2011–12 Regular Session is also enacted.