2331--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 16, 2013

Introduced by Sens. KLEIN, CARLUCCI, SAVINO, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance -- recommitted to the Committee on Insurance in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the insurance law and the public health law, in relation to making actuarially appropriate reductions in health insurance premiums in return for an enrollee's or insured's participation in a qualified wellness program

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 3231 of the insurance law, as added by chapter 501 of the laws of 1992, is amended by adding a new subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

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- (C-1) SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, AN INSURER OR 5 HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION ISSUING AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY PROVIDE FOR AN ACTUARIALLY 7 APPROPRIATE REDUCTION IN PREMIUM RATES OR OTHER BENEFITS OR ENHANCEMENTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENCOURAGE AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S 9 ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A OUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM. A OUALIFIED PROGRAM CAN BE A RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES AT-RISK 10 POPULATIONS OR ANY OTHER SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM OR COURSE OF MEDICAL CONDUCT 11 12 WHICH HELPS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELL-BE-13 ING, HELPS TO PREVENT OR MITIGATE THE CONDITIONS OF ACUTE OR CHRONIC SICKNESS, DISEASE OR PAIN, OR WHICH MINIMIZES ADVERSE HEALTH 14 OUENCES DUE TO LIFESTYLE. SUCH A WELLNESS PROGRAM MAY HAVE SOME OR ALL 15 OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS TO ADVANCE THE PHYSICAL HEALTH 16 AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF ITS PARTICIPANTS: 17
- 18 (1) AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF AND DISSEM-19 INATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PURSUING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, AND WHICH 20 WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL ACTIVITIES

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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 THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO HUMAN HEALTH. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SCREENING TESTS TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, ASTHMA, OBESITY OR OTHER ADVERSE HEALTH AFFLICTIONS;

- (2) A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES BEHAVIORAL PRACTICES THAT EITHER ENCOURAGES HEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES OR DISCOURAGES UNHEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES. SUCH ACTIVITIES OR PRACTICES MAY INCLUDE WELLNESS PROGRAMS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS ARTICLE; AND
- (3) THE MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF EACH COVERED PERSON TO TRACK HIS OR HER ADHERENCE TO SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SUCH COVERED PERSON TO ASSIST HIM OR HER TO ATTAIN THE GOALS OF THE COVERED PERSON'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.

SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM SHALL DEMONSTRATE ACTUARIALLY THAT IT ENCOURAGES THE GENERAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COVERED POPULATION. THE INSURER OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AS A RESULT OF AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S ADHERENCE TO THE APPROVED WELLNESS PROGRAM.

- S 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 3239 of the insurance law, as added by chapter 592 of the laws of 2008, paragraphs 6 and 7 of subsection (b) and subparagraph (C) and (D) of paragraph 2 of subsection (c) as amended, and paragraph 8 of subsection (b) and subparagraph (E) and (F) of paragraph 2 of subsection (c) as added by chapter 519 of the laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:
- (b) A wellness program may include, but is not limited to, the following programs or services:
 - (1) the use of a health risk assessment tool;
 - (2) a smoking cessation program;
 - (3) a weight management program;
 - (4) a stress AND/OR HYPERTENSION management program;
 - (5) a worker injury prevention program;
 - (6) a nutrition education program;
 - (7) health or fitness incentive programs; [and]
- (8) a coordinated weight management, nutrition, stress management and physical fitness program to combat the high incidence of adult and childhood obesity, asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions[.];
 - (9) A SUBSTANCE OR ALCOHOL ABUSE CESSATION PROGRAM; AND
 - (10) A PROGRAM TO MANAGE AND COPE WITH CHRONIC PAIN.
- (c)(1) A wellness program may use rewards and incentives for participation provided that where the group health insurance policy or subscriber contract is required to be community-rated, the rewards and incentives shall not include a discounted premium rate or a rebate or refund of premium, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF THIS ARTICLE, OR SECTION FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE, FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN OR FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX OF THIS CHAPTER, OR SECTION FORTY-FOUR HUNDRED FIVE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW.
 - (2) Permissible rewards and incentives MAY include:
- (A) full or partial reimbursement of the cost of participating in smoking cessation [or], weight management, STRESS AND/OR HYPERTENSION, WORKER INJURY PREVENTION, NUTRITION EDUCATION, SUBSTANCE OR ALCOHOL ABUSE CESSATION, OR CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT AND COPING programs;
- (B) full or partial reimbursement of the cost of membership in a health club or fitness center;

 (C) the waiver or reduction of copayments, coinsurance and deductibles for preventive services covered under the group policy or subscriber contract;

- (D) monetary rewards in the form of gift cards or gift certificates, so long as the recipient of the reward is encouraged to use the reward for a product or a service that promotes good health, such as healthy cook books, over the counter vitamins or exercise equipment;
- (E) full or partial reimbursement of the cost of participating in a stress management program or activity; and
- (F) full or partial reimbursement of the cost of participating in a health or fitness program.
- (3) Where the reward involves a group member's meeting a specified standard based on a health condition, the wellness program must meet the requirements of 45 CFR Part 146.
- (4) A reward or incentive which involves a discounted premium rate or a rebate or refund of premium shall be based on actuarial demonstration that the wellness program can reasonably be expected to result in the overall good health and well being of the group AS PROVIDED IN SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF THIS ARTICLE, SECTIONS FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE, FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX OF THIS CHAPTER, AND SECTION FORTY-FOUR HUNDRED FIVE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW.
- S 3. Subsection (h) of section 4235 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new paragraph 5 to read as follows:
- (5) EACH INSURER DOING BUSINESS IN THIS STATE, WHEN FILING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT ITS SCHEDULES OF PREMIUM RATES, RULES AND CLASSIFICATION OF RISKS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF ITS POLICIES OF GROUP ACCIDENT, GROUP HEALTH OR GROUP ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE, MAY PROVIDE FOR AN ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE REDUCTION IN PREMIUM RATES OR OTHER BENEFITS OR ENHANCEMENTS APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENCOUR-AGE AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A QUALIFIED WELL-NESS PROGRAM. A QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM CAN BE A RISK MANAGEMENT IDENTIFIES AT-RISK POPULATIONS OR ANY OTHER SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM OR COURSE OF MEDICAL CONDUCT WHICH HELPS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, HELPS TO PREVENT OR MITIGATE CONDITIONS OF ACUTE OR CHRONIC SICKNESS, DISEASE OR PAIN, OR WHICH MINI-MIZES ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES DUE TO LIFESTYLE. SUCH A WELLNESS PROGRAM MAY HAVE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS TO ADVANCE PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF ITS PARTICIPANTS:
- (A) AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF AND DISSEM-INATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PURSUING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, AND WHICH WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO HUMAN HEALTH. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SCREENING TESTS TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, ASTHMA, OBESITY OR OTHER ADVERSE HEALTH AFFLICTIONS;
- (B) A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES BEHAVIORAL PRACTICES THAT EITHER ENCOURAGES HEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES OR DISCOURAGES UNHEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES. SUCH ACTIVITIES OR PRACTICES MAY INCLUDE WELLNESS PROGRAMS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS CHAPTER;
- (C) THE MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF EACH COVERED PERSON TO TRACK HIS OR HER ADHERENCE TO SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SUCH COVERED PERSON TO ASSIST HIM OR HER TO ATTAIN THE GOALS OF THE COVERED PERSON'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.

SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM SHALL DEMONSTRATE ACTUARIALLY THAT IT ENCOURAGES THE GENERAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COVERED POPULATION. THE INSURER OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AS A RESULT OF AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S ADHERENCE TO THE APPROVED WELLNESS PROGRAM.

- S 4. Section 4317 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new subsection (c-1) to read as follows:
- (C-1) SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, AN INSURER OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION ISSUING AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY PROVIDE FOR AN ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE REDUCTION IN PREMIUM RATES OR OTHER BENEFITS OR ENHANCEMENTS APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENCOURAGE AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM. A QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM CAN BE A RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES AT-RISK POPULATIONS OR ANY OTHER SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM OR COURSE OF MEDICAL CONDUCT WHICH HELPS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, HELPS TO PREVENT OR MITIGATE THE CONDITIONS OF ACUTE OR CHRONIC SICKNESS, DISEASE OR PAIN, OR WHICH MINIMIZES ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES DUE TO LIFESTYLE. SUCH A WELLNESS PROGRAM MAY HAVE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS TO ADVANCE THE PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF ITS PARTICIPANTS:
- (1) AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF AND DISSEM-INATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PURSUING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, AND WHICH WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO HUMAN HEALTH. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SCREENING TESTS TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, ASTHMA, OBESITY OR OTHER ADVERSE HEALTH AFFLICTIONS;
- (2) A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES BEHAVIORAL PRACTICES THAT EITHER ENCOURAGES HEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES OR DISCOURAGES UNHEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES. SUCH ACTIVITIES OR PRACTICES MAY INCLUDE WELLNESS PROGRAMS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS CHAPTER; AND
- (3) THE MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF EACH COVERED PERSON TO TRACK HIS OR HER ADHERENCE TO SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SUCH COVERED PERSON TO ASSIST HIM OR HER TO ATTAIN THE GOALS OF THE COVERED PERSON'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.

SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM SHALL DEMONSTRATE ACTUARIALLY THAT IT ENCOURAGES THE GENERAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COVERED POPULATION. THE INSURER OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AS A RESULT OF AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S ADHERENCE TO THE APPROVED WELLNESS PROGRAM.

- S 5. Subsection (m) of section 4326 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new paragraph 4 to read as follows:
- (4) APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, AN INSURER OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION ISSUING A CONTRACT FOR QUALIFYING SMALL EMPLOYERS OR INDI-VIDUALS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY PROVIDE FOR AN ACTUARIALLY PRIATE REDUCTION IN PREMIUM RATES OR OTHER BENEFITS OR ENHANCEMENTS APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENCOURAGE AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S PARTICIPATION IN A QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM. A QUALIFIED WELL-NESS PROGRAM CAN BE A RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES AT-RISK POPULATIONS OR ANY OTHER SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM OR COURSE OF MEDICAL CONDUCT WHICH HELPS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELL-BE-ING, HELPS TO PREVENT OR MITIGATE THE CONDITIONS OF ACUTE OR CHRONIC SICKNESS, DISEASE OR PAIN, OR WHICH MINIMIZES ADVERSE HEALTH CONSE-QUENCES DUE TO LIFESTYLE. SUCH A WELLNESS PROGRAM MAY HAVE SOME OR ALL

1 OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS TO ADVANCE THE PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MENTAL 2 WELL-BEING OF ITS PARTICIPANTS:

- (1) AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF AND DISSEM-INATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PURSUING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, AND WHICH WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO HUMAN HEALTH. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SCREENING TESTS TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, ASTHMA, OBESITY OR OTHER ADVERSE HEALTH AFFLICTIONS;
- (2) A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES BEHAVIORAL PRACTICES THAT EITHER ENCOURAGES HEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES OR DISCOURAGES UNHEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES. SUCH ACTIVITIES OR PRACTICES MAY INCLUDE WELLNESS PROGRAMS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS CHAPTER; AND
- (3) THE MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF EACH COVERED PERSON TO TRACK HIS OR HER ADHERENCE TO SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SUCH COVERED PERSON TO ASSIST HIM OR HER TO ATTAIN THE GOALS OF THE COVERED PERSON'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.

SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM SHALL DEMONSTRATE ACTUARIALLY THAT IT ENCOURAGES THE GENERAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COVERED POPULATION. THE INSURER OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AS A RESULT OF AN ENROLLEE'S OR INSURED'S ADHERENCE TO THE APPROVED WELLNESS PROGRAM.

- S 6. Section 4405 of the public health law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5-a to read as follows:
- 5-A. SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, THE POSSIBLE PROVIDING OF AN ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE REDUCTION IN PREMIUM RATES OR OTHER BENEFITS OR ENHANCEMENTS APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES TO ENCOURAGE AN ENROLLEE'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM. A QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM CAN BE A RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES AT-RISK POPULATIONS OR ANY OTHER SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM OR COURSE OF MEDICAL CONDUCT WHICH HELPS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, HELPS TO PREVENT OR MITIGATE THE CONDITIONS OF ACUTE OR CHRONIC SICKNESS, DISEASE OR PAIN, OR WHICH MINIMIZES ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES DUE TO LIFESTYLE. SUCH A WELLNESS PROGRAM MAY HAVE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS TO ADVANCE THE PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF ITS PARTICIPANTS:
- (1) AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF AND DISSEM-INATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PURSUING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, AND WHICH WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO HUMAN HEALTH. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SCREENING TESTS TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, ASTHMA, OBESITY OR OTHER ADVERSE HEALTH AFFLICTIONS;
- (2) A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES BEHAVIORAL PRACTICES THAT EITHER ENCOURAGES HEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES OR DISCOURAGES UNHEALTHY LIVING ACTIVITIES. SUCH ACTIVITIES OR PRACTICES MAY INCLUDE WELLNESS PROGRAMS, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THE INSURANCE LAW; AND
- (3) THE MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF EACH COVERED PERSON TO TRACK HIS OR HER ADHERENCE TO SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SUCH COVERED PERSON TO ASSIST HIM OR HER TO ATTAIN THE GOALS OF THE COVERED PERSON'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.
- SUCH WELLNESS PROGRAM SHALL DEMONSTRATE ACTUARIALLY THAT IT ENCOURAGES THE GENERAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COVERED POPULATION. THE

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HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AS A RESULT OF AN ENROLLEE'S ADHERENCE TO THE APPROVED WELLNESS PROGRAM;

S 7. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided that, effective immediately any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be added, amended and/or repealed on or before such date.