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I N S E N A T E

May 12, 2016

Introduced by Sen. SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to meetings and reports of the New York state health care quality and cost containment commission

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

1 Section 1. Section 213 of the insurance law, as added by section 1 of
2 part L of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 213. New York state health care quality and cost containment commis-
4 sion. (a) There is hereby established within the department a commis-
5 sion, to be known as the "New York state health care quality and cost
6 containment commission". The commission shall consist of thirteen
7 members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be the superinten-
8 dent, one of whom shall be the commissioner of health, and six of whom
9 shall be appointed on the recommendation of the legislative leaders, two
10 on the recommendation of the temporary president of the senate, two on
11 the recommendation of the speaker of the assembly, one on the recommen-
12 dation of the minority leader of the senate, and one on the recommenda-
13 tion of the minority leader of the assembly. All members shall serve at
14 the pleasure of the governor, and vacancies shall be appointed in the
15 same manner as original appointments. Members of the commission shall
16 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable trav-
17 el expenses. In making appointments to the commission, the governor
18 shall ensure that the interests of health care consumers, small busi-
19 nesses, the medical community and health plans are represented on the
20 commission. THE COMMISSION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO MEET ON THE FIRST
21 MONDAY OF JUNE OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR TO CONSIDER OUTSTANDING REQUESTS OR
22 DUTIES. ANY VACANCIES SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED BY THE APPOINTING AUTHORI-
23 TY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE FIRST MEETING. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL
24 FORFEIT THE RIGHT FOR AN APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY TO FILL VACANCIES WITHIN
25 THEIR STATUTORILY ALLOWED MEMBERS.
26 (b)(1) The purpose of the commission shall be to analyze the impact on
27 health insurance costs and quality of proposed legislation which would

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

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1 mandate that health benefits be offered or made available in individual
2 and group health insurance policies, contracts and comprehensive health
3 service plans, including legislation that affects the delivery of health
4 benefits or services or the reimbursement of health care providers.

5 (2) [The] NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE governor,
6 the chair of the senate insurance committee and the chair of the assem-
7 bly insurance committee may request in writing that the commission eval-
8 uate a proposed mandated benefit. Upon receiving such a request, the
9 commission may, by a majority vote of its members, undertake an evalu-
10 ation of such proposed mandated benefit.

11 (3) In evaluating a proposed mandated benefit, the commission shall:

12 (A) investigate the current practices of health plans with regard to
13 the proposed mandated benefit, and, to the extent possible, self-funded
14 health benefit plans;

15 (B) investigate the potential premium impact of the proposed mandated
16 benefits on all segments of the insurance market, as well as the poten-
17 tial for avoided costs through early detection and treatment of condi-
18 tions, or more cost-effective delivery of medical services; and

19 (C) analyze the most current medical literature regarding the proposed
20 mandated benefit to determine its impact on health care quality.

21 (4) In evaluating a proposed mandated benefit, the commission may hold
22 one or more public hearings, and shall strive to obtain independent and
23 verifiable information from diverse sources within the healthcare indus-
24 try, medical community and among health care consumers with regard to
25 the proposed mandated benefit.

26 (c) To assist the commission in its duties, and upon the direction of
27 the commission, the superintendent is authorized to enter into one or
28 more contracts with independent entities and organizations with demon-
29 strable expertise in health care quality, finance, utilization and actu-
30 arial services. For the purposes of this section, the superintendent
31 shall not enter into contracts with health plans, entities or organiza-
32 tions owned or controlled by health plans, or with significant business
33 relationships with health plans.

34 (d) Upon completion of its evaluation of a proposed mandated benefit
35 pursuant to this section, the commission shall deliver a written report
36 of its findings to the chair of the assembly insurance committee and the
37 chair of the senate insurance committee.

38 (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE MAJORITY
39 LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE CHAIRS OF THE
40 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY INSURANCE COMMITTEES, AND THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE
41 TASK FORCE ON LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES, A REPORT CONSIDERING THE
42 IMPACT ON HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS AND QUALITY OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING
43 COVERAGE OF LONG-TERM AND CHRONIC LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE
44 DISEASES. THE COMMISSION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER ISSUES INCLUDING,
45 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE SPECIFIC MEDICAL IMPACTS TO PARTICULAR GEOGRAPH-
46 IC AREAS IN THE STATE INCLUDING THE HUDSON VALLEY AND LONG ISLAND, BEST
47 PRACTICES DEVELOPED FOR COVERAGE FOR LONG-TERM AND CHRONIC LYME DISEASE
48 IN OTHER STATES, AND THE ASSOCIATED COSTS OF MANDATED COVERAGE IN ADDI-
49 TION TO PROJECTED COSTS OF UNTREATED SYMPTOMS. THE COMMISSION SHALL
50 DELIVER A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS BY OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND
51 SIXTEEN.

52 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.