

STATE OF NEW YORK

6714

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 10, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER, ANGELINO, MAGNARELLI, DeSTEFANO, LUPARDO, SIMON, PAULIN, LUNSFORD, SEAWRIGHT, GLICK, JONES, BICHOTTE HERME-LYN, RAGA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to standardized health insurance contracts for small dental employers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The section heading and subsections (a), (c), (g), (h), (i) and (k) of section 4326 of the insurance law, as amended by section 56 of part D of chapter 56 of the laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:

Standardized health insurance contracts for qualifying small employers, qualifying small dental employers and individuals. (a) A program is hereby established for the purpose of making standardized health insurance contracts available to qualifying small employers and qualifying small dental employers as defined in this section. Such program is designed to encourage small employers to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.

(c) The following definitions shall be applicable to the insurance contracts offered under the program established by this section:

(1) (A) A qualifying small employer is an employer with:

(i) not more than fifty employees;

(ii) no group health insurance that provides benefits on an expense reimbursed or prepaid basis covering employees in effect during the twelve month period prior to application for a qualifying group health insurance contract under the program established by this section; and

(iii) at least thirty percent of its employees receiving annual wages from the employer at a level equal to or less than thirty thousand dollars. The thirty thousand dollar figure shall be adjusted periodically pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this paragraph.

(B) The twelve month period set forth in item (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be adjusted by the superintendent from twelve months to eighteen months if [~~he determines~~] they determine that the

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

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1 twelve month period is insufficient to prevent inappropriate substi-
2 tution of qualifying group health insurance contracts for other health
3 insurance contracts.

4 (C) An employer shall cease to be a qualifying small employer if any
5 health insurance that provides benefits on an expense reimbursed or
6 prepaid basis covering an employer's employees, other than qualifying
7 group health insurance purchased pursuant to this section, is purchased
8 or otherwise takes effect subsequent to purchase of qualifying group
9 health insurance under the program established by this section.

10 (D) The wage levels utilized in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph
11 shall be adjusted annually, beginning in two thousand two. The adjust-
12 ment shall take effect on July first of each year. For July first, two
13 thousand two, the adjustment shall be a percentage of the annual wage
14 figure specified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph. For subsequent
15 years, the adjustment shall be a percentage of the annual wage figure
16 that took effect on July first of the prior year. The percentage adjust-
17 ment shall be the same percentage by which the current year's non-farm
18 federal poverty level, as defined and updated by the federal department
19 of health and human services, for a family unit of four persons for the
20 forty-eight contiguous states and Washington, D.C., changed from the
21 same level established for the prior year.

22 (2) (A) A qualifying small dental employer is an employer with:

23 (i) not more than fifty employees;

24 (ii) at least one dentist licensed as a dentist under section sixty-
25 six hundred four of the education law who practices general dentistry,
26 provided that such dentist, and any additional dentist similarly
27 licensed and practicing general dentistry with whom such dentist prac-
28 tices in the same location, shall each provide at least ten dental
29 office visits per month to patients receiving medical assistance cover-
30 age under title eleven of article five of the social services law.
31 Dental office visits provided to such patients shall include all
32 services routinely provided to patients at such office location,
33 provided that the services are covered by the patient's medical assist-
34 ance coverage; and

35 (iii) at least two dental hygienists licensed as dental hygienists
36 under section sixty-six hundred nine of the education law.

37 (B) An employer shall cease to be a qualifying small dental employer
38 if any health insurance that provides benefits on an expense reimbursed
39 or prepaid basis covering an employer's employees, other than qualifying
40 group health insurance purchased pursuant to this section, is purchased
41 or otherwise takes effect subsequent to purchase of qualifying group
42 health insurance under the program established by this section.

43 (3) A qualifying group health insurance contract is a group contract
44 purchased from a health maintenance organization, corporation or insurer
45 by a qualifying small employer or qualifying small dental employer that
46 provides the benefits set forth in subsection (d) of this section. The
47 contract must insure not less than fifty percent of the employees.

48 (g) A health maintenance organization, corporation or insurer must
49 offer the benefit package without change or additional benefits. A qual-
50 ifying small employer or qualifying small dental employer shall be
51 issued the benefit package in a qualifying group health insurance
52 contract.

53 (h) A health maintenance organization, corporation or insurer shall
54 obtain from the employer written certification at the time of initial
55 application and annually thereafter ninety days prior to the contract
56 renewal date that such employer meets the requirements of a qualifying

1 small employer or qualifying small dental employer pursuant to this
2 section. A health maintenance organization, corporation or insurer may
3 require the submission of appropriate documentation in support of the
4 certification.

5 (i) Applications for qualifying group health insurance contracts must
6 be accepted from any qualifying small employer or qualifying small
7 dental employer at all times throughout the year. The superintendent, by
8 regulation, may require health maintenance organizations, corporations
9 or insurers to give preference to qualifying small employers whose
10 employees have the lowest average salaries and to qualifying small
11 dental employers who serve more than the threshold number of patients
12 receiving medical assistance coverage under title eleven of article five
13 of the social services law as identified in item (ii) of subparagraph
14 (A) of paragraph two of subsection (c) of this section.

15 (k) A qualifying small employer or qualifying small dental employer
16 shall elect whether to make coverage under the qualifying group health
17 insurance contract available to dependents of employees. Any employee or
18 dependent who is enrolled in Medicare is ineligible for coverage, unless
19 required by federal law. Dependents of an employee who is enrolled in
20 Medicare will be eligible for dependent coverage provided the dependent
21 is not also enrolled in Medicare.

22 § 2. The section heading and subsections (m), (m-1) and (n) of section
23 4327 of the insurance law, the section heading and subsections (m) and
24 (n) as amended by section 58 of part D of chapter 56 of the laws of
25 2013, and subsection (m-1) as amended by section 38 of subpart B of part
26 J of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

27 Stop loss funds for standardized health insurance contracts issued to
28 qualifying small employers, qualifying small dental employers and quali-
29 fying individuals.

30 (m) If at any point during a suspension of enrollment of new qualify-
31 ing small employers and qualifying small dental employers, the super-
32 intendent determines that funds are sufficient to provide for the addi-
33 tion of new enrollments, the superintendent shall be authorized to
34 reactivate new enrollments and to notify all health maintenance organ-
35 izations, corporations or insurers that enrollment of new employers may
36 again commence.

37 (m-1) In the event that the superintendent suspends the enrollment of
38 new individuals for qualifying group health insurance contracts, the
39 superintendent shall ensure that small employers, including small dental
40 employers, seeking to enroll in a qualified group health insurance
41 contract pursuant to section forty-three hundred twenty-six of this
42 article are provided information on and directed to coverage options
43 available through the health benefit exchange established by this state.

44 (n) The suspension of issuance of qualifying group health insurance
45 contracts to new qualifying small employers and qualifying small dental
46 employers shall not preclude the addition of new employees of an employ-
47 er already covered under such a contract or new dependents of employees
48 already covered under such contracts.

49 § 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
50 law and shall expire and be deemed repealed 5 years after such date.
51 Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule
52 or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effec-
53 tive date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such
54 effective date.