

SSB 5449 - S AMD 41

By Senators Parlette, Keiser

ADOPTED 02/27/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The federal patient protection and
4 affordable care act of 2010, P.L. 111-148, as amended, prohibits the
5 imposition of any preexisting condition coverage exceptions in the
6 individual market for insurance coverage beginning January 1, 2014.
7 The affordable care act also extends opportunities for individuals to
8 enroll in comprehensive coverage in a health benefit exchange beginning
9 January 1, 2014. The legislature finds that some individuals may still
10 be barred from enrolling in the new comprehensive coverage options and
11 it is the intent of the legislature to continue some limited access to
12 the Washington state health insurance pool for a transitional period,
13 and to provide for modification to the pool to reflect changes in
14 federal law and insurance availability.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 48.41.060 and 2011 c 314 s 13 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) The board shall have the general powers and authority granted
18 under the laws of this state to insurance companies, health care
19 service contractors, and health maintenance organizations, licensed or
20 registered to offer or provide the kinds of health coverage defined
21 under this title. In addition thereto, the board shall:

22 ~~(a) ((Designate or establish the standard health questionnaire to~~
23 ~~be used under RCW 48.41.100 and 48.43.018, including the form and~~
24 ~~content of the standard health questionnaire and the method of its~~
25 ~~application. The questionnaire must provide for an objective~~
26 ~~evaluation of an individual's health status by assigning a discreet~~
27 ~~measure, such as a system of point scoring to each individual. The~~
28 ~~questionnaire must not contain any questions related to pregnancy, and~~
29 ~~pregnancy shall not be a basis for coverage by the pool. The~~

1 ~~questionnaire shall be designed such that it is reasonably expected to~~
2 ~~identify the eight percent of persons who are the most costly to treat~~
3 ~~who are under individual coverage in health benefit plans, as defined~~
4 ~~in RCW 48.43.005, in Washington state or are covered by the pool, if~~
5 ~~applied to all such persons;~~

6 ~~(b) Obtain from a member of the American academy of actuaries, who~~
7 ~~is independent of the board, a certification that the standard health~~
8 ~~questionnaire meets the requirements of (a) of this subsection;~~

9 ~~(c) Approve the standard health questionnaire and any modifications~~
10 ~~needed to comply with this chapter. The standard health questionnaire~~
11 ~~shall be submitted to an actuary for certification, modified as~~
12 ~~necessary, and approved at least every thirty six months unless at the~~
13 ~~time when certification is required the pool will be discontinued~~
14 ~~before the end of the succeeding thirty six month period. The~~
15 ~~designation and approval of the standard health questionnaire by the~~
16 ~~board shall not be subject to review and approval by the commissioner.~~
17 ~~The standard health questionnaire or any modification thereto shall not~~
18 ~~be used until ninety days after public notice of the approval of the~~
19 ~~questionnaire or any modification thereto, except that the initial~~
20 ~~standard health questionnaire approved for use by the board after March~~
21 ~~23, 2000, may be used immediately following public notice of such~~
22 ~~approval;~~

23 ~~(d))~~ Establish appropriate rates, rate schedules, rate
24 adjustments, expense allowances, claim reserve formulas and any other
25 actuarial functions appropriate to the operation of the pool. Rates
26 shall not be unreasonable in relation to the coverage provided, the
27 risk experience, and expenses of providing the coverage. Rates and
28 rate schedules may be adjusted for appropriate risk factors such as age
29 and area variation in claim costs and shall take into consideration
30 appropriate risk factors in accordance with established actuarial
31 underwriting practices consistent with Washington state individual plan
32 rating requirements under RCW 48.44.022 and 48.46.064;

33 ~~((e))~~ (b)(i) Assess members of the pool in accordance with the
34 provisions of this chapter, and make advance interim assessments as may
35 be reasonable and necessary for the organizational or interim operating
36 expenses. Any interim assessments will be credited as offsets against
37 any regular assessments due following the close of the year.

1 (ii) Self-funded multiple employer welfare arrangements are subject
2 to assessment under this subsection only in the event that assessments
3 are not preempted by the employee retirement income security act of
4 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq. The arrangements and the
5 commissioner shall initially request an advisory opinion from the
6 United States department of labor or obtain a declaratory ruling from
7 a federal court on the legality of imposing assessments on these
8 arrangements before imposing the assessment. Once the legality of the
9 assessments has been determined, the multiple employer welfare
10 arrangement certified by the insurance commissioner must begin payment
11 of these assessments.

12 (iii) If there has not been a final determination of the legality
13 of these assessments, then beginning on the earlier of (A) the date the
14 fourth multiple employer welfare arrangement has been certified by the
15 insurance commissioner, or (B) April 1, 2006, the arrangement shall
16 deposit the assessments imposed by this subsection into an interest
17 bearing escrow account maintained by the arrangement. Upon a final
18 determination that the assessments are not preempted by the employee
19 retirement income security act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1001
20 et seq., all funds in the interest bearing escrow account shall be
21 transferred to the board;

22 ~~((f))~~ (c) Issue policies of health coverage in accordance with
23 the requirements of this chapter;

24 ~~((g))~~ (d) Establish procedures for the administration of the
25 premium discount provided under RCW 48.41.200(3)(a)(iii);

26 ~~((h))~~ (e) Contract with the Washington state health care
27 authority for the administration of the premium discounts provided
28 under RCW 48.41.200(3)(a) (i) and (ii);

29 ~~((i))~~ (f) Set a reasonable fee to be paid to an insurance
30 producer licensed in Washington state for submitting an acceptable
31 application for enrollment in the pool; and

32 ~~((j))~~ (g) Provide certification to the commissioner when
33 assessments will exceed the threshold level established in RCW
34 48.41.037.

35 (2) In addition thereto, the board may:

36 (a) Enter into contracts as are necessary or proper to carry out
37 the provisions and purposes of this chapter including the authority,
38 with the approval of the commissioner, to enter into contracts with

1 similar pools of other states for the joint performance of common
2 administrative functions, or with persons or other organizations for
3 the performance of administrative functions;

4 (b) Sue or be sued, including taking any legal action as necessary
5 to avoid the payment of improper claims against the pool or the
6 coverage provided by or through the pool;

7 (c) Appoint appropriate legal, actuarial, and other committees as
8 necessary to provide technical assistance in the operation of the pool,
9 policy, and other contract design, and any other function within the
10 authority of the pool; and

11 (d) Conduct periodic audits to assure the general accuracy of the
12 financial data submitted to the pool, and the board shall cause the
13 pool to have an annual audit of its operations by an independent
14 certified public accountant.

15 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or
16 authorize the adoption of rules under chapter 34.05 RCW.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 48.41.100 and 2011 c 315 s 5 and 2011 c 314 s 15 are
18 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

19 (1)(a) The following persons who are residents of this state are
20 eligible for pool coverage:

21 ~~(i) ((Any person who provides evidence of a carrier's decision not
22 to accept him or her for enrollment in an individual health benefit
23 plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005 based upon, and within ninety days of
24 the receipt of, the results of the standard health questionnaire
25 designated by the board and administered by health carriers under RCW
26 48.43.018;~~

27 ~~(ii) Any person who continues to be eligible for pool coverage
28 based upon the results of the standard health questionnaire designated
29 by the board and administered by the pool administrator pursuant to
30 subsection (3) of this section;~~

31 ~~(iii) Any person who resides in a county of the state where no
32 carrier or insurer eligible under chapter 48.15 RCW offers to the
33 public an individual health benefit plan other than a catastrophic
34 health plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005 at the time of application to
35 the pool, and who makes direct application to the pool)) Any resident
36 of the state not eligible for medicare coverage or medicaid coverage,
37 and residing in a county where an individual health plan other than a~~

1 catastrophic health plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005 is not offered to
2 the resident at the time of application to the pool, whether through
3 the health benefit exchange operated pursuant to chapter 43.71 RCW or
4 in the private insurance market, and who makes application to the pool
5 for coverage prior to December 31, 2017;

6 (ii) Any resident of the state not eligible for medicare coverage,
7 enrolled in the pool prior to December 31, 2013, shall remain eligible
8 for pool coverage except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this
9 section through December 31, 2017;

10 ~~((iv))~~ (iii) Any person becoming eligible for medicare before
11 August 1, 2009, who provides evidence of (A) a rejection for medical
12 reasons, (B) a requirement of restrictive riders, (C) an up-rated
13 premium, (D) a preexisting conditions limitation, or (E) lack of access
14 to or for a comprehensive medicare supplemental insurance policy under
15 chapter 48.66 RCW, the effect of any of which is to substantially
16 reduce coverage from that received by a person considered a standard
17 risk by at least one member within six months of the date of
18 application; and

19 ~~((v))~~ (iv) Any person becoming eligible for medicare on or after
20 August 1, 2009, who does not have access to a reasonable choice of
21 comprehensive medicare part C plans, as defined in (b) of this
22 subsection, and who provides evidence of (A) a rejection for medical
23 reasons, (B) a requirement of restrictive riders, (C) an up-rated
24 premium, (D) a preexisting conditions limitation, or (E) lack of access
25 to or for a comprehensive medicare supplemental insurance policy under
26 chapter 48.66 RCW, the effect of any of which is to substantially
27 reduce coverage from that received by a person considered a standard
28 risk by at least one member within six months of the date of
29 application(~~(v) and~~

30 ~~(vi) Any person under the age of nineteen who does not have access~~
31 ~~to individual plan open enrollment or special enrollment, as defined in~~
32 ~~RCW 48.43.005, or the federal preexisting condition insurance pool, at~~
33 ~~the time of application to the pool is eligible for the pool~~
34 ~~coverage)).~~

35 (b) For purposes of (a)~~((v))~~(iv) of this subsection (1), a person
36 does not have access to a reasonable choice of plans unless the person
37 has a choice of health maintenance organization or preferred provider
38 organization medicare part C plans offered by at least three different

1 carriers that have had provider networks in the person's county of
2 residence for at least five years. The plan options must include
3 coverage at least as comprehensive as a plan F medicare supplement plan
4 combined with medicare parts A and B. The plan options must also
5 provide access to adequate and stable provider networks that make up-
6 to-date provider directories easily accessible on the carrier web site,
7 and will provide them in hard copy, if requested. In addition, if no
8 health maintenance organization or preferred provider organization plan
9 includes the health care provider with whom the person has an
10 established care relationship and from whom he or she has received
11 treatment within the past twelve months, the person does not have
12 reasonable access.

13 (2) The following persons are not eligible for coverage by the
14 pool:

15 (a) Any person having terminated coverage in the pool unless (i)
16 twelve months have lapsed since termination, or (ii) that person can
17 show continuous other coverage which has been involuntarily terminated
18 for any reason other than nonpayment of premiums. However, these
19 exclusions do not apply to eligible individuals as defined in section
20 2741(b) of the federal health insurance portability and accountability
21 act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-41(b));

22 (b) Inmates of public institutions and those persons who become
23 eligible for medical assistance after June 30, 2008, as defined in RCW
24 74.09.010. However, these exclusions do not apply to eligible
25 individuals as defined in section 2741(b) of the federal health
26 insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. Sec.
27 300gg-41(b))((+)

28 ~~(c) Any person who resides in a county of the state where any~~
29 ~~carrier or insurer regulated under chapter 48.15 RCW offers to the~~
30 ~~public an individual health benefit plan other than a catastrophic~~
31 ~~health plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005 at the time of application to~~
32 ~~the pool and who does not qualify for pool coverage based upon the~~
33 ~~results of the standard health questionnaire, or pursuant to subsection~~
34 ~~(1)(a)(iv) of this section)).~~

35 (3) When a carrier or insurer regulated under chapter 48.15 RCW
36 begins to offer an individual health benefit plan in a county where no
37 carrier had been offering an individual health benefit plan:

1 (a) If the health benefit plan offered is other than a catastrophic
2 health plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005, any person enrolled in a pool
3 plan pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(~~(iii)~~) (i) of this section in that
4 county shall no longer be eligible for coverage under that plan
5 pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(~~(iii)~~) (i) of this section(~~, but may~~
6 ~~continue to be eligible for pool coverage based upon the results of the~~
7 ~~standard health questionnaire designated by the board and administered~~
8 ~~by the pool administrator. The pool administrator shall offer to~~
9 ~~administer the questionnaire to each person no longer eligible for~~
10 ~~coverage under subsection (1)(a)(iii) of this section within thirty~~
11 ~~days of determining that he or she is no longer eligible;~~

12 ~~(b) Losing eligibility for pool coverage under this subsection (3)~~
13 ~~does not affect a person's eligibility for pool coverage under~~
14 ~~subsection (1)(a)(i), (ii), or (iv) of this section)); and~~

15 ~~((e))~~ (b) The pool administrator shall provide written notice to
16 any person who is no longer eligible for coverage under a pool plan
17 under this subsection (3) within thirty days of the administrator's
18 determination that the person is no longer eligible. The notice shall:
19 (i) Indicate that coverage under the plan will cease ninety days from
20 the date that the notice is dated; (ii) describe any other coverage
21 options, either in or outside of the pool, available to the person; and
22 (iii) describe the ~~((procedures for the administration of the standard~~
23 ~~health questionnaire to determine the person's continued eligibility~~
24 ~~for coverage under subsection (1)(a)(ii) of this section; and (iv)~~
25 ~~describe the))~~ enrollment process for the available options outside of
26 the pool.

27 ~~((4) The board shall ensure that an independent analysis of the~~
28 ~~eligibility standards for the pool coverage is conducted, including~~
29 ~~examining the eight percent eligibility threshold, eligibility for~~
30 ~~medicaid enrollees and other publicly sponsored enrollees, and the~~
31 ~~impacts on the pool and the state budget. The board shall report the~~
32 ~~findings to the legislature by December 1, 2007.))~~

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 48.41.160 and 2007 c 259 s 27 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 (1) On or before December 31, 2007, the pool shall cancel all
36 existing pool policies and replace them with policies that are
37 identical to the existing policies except for the inclusion of a

1 provision providing for a guarantee of the continuity of coverage
2 consistent with this section. As a means to minimize the number of
3 policy changes for enrollees, replacement policies provided under this
4 subsection also may include the plan modifications authorized in RCW
5 48.41.100, 48.41.110, and 48.41.120.

6 (2) A pool policy shall contain a guarantee of the individual's
7 right to continued coverage, subject to the provisions of subsections
8 (4) (~~and~~), (5), (7), and (8) of this section.

9 (3) The guarantee of continuity of coverage required by this
10 section shall not prevent the pool from canceling or nonrenewing a
11 policy for:

- 12 (a) Nonpayment of premium;
- 13 (b) Violation of published policies of the pool;
- 14 (c) Failure of a covered person who becomes eligible for medicare
15 benefits by reason of age to apply for a pool medical supplement plan,
16 or a medicare supplement plan or other similar plan offered by a
17 carrier pursuant to federal laws and regulations;
- 18 (d) Failure of a covered person to pay any deductible or copayment
19 amount owed to the pool and not the provider of health care services;
- 20 (e) Covered persons committing fraudulent acts as to the pool;
- 21 (f) Covered persons materially breaching the pool policy; or
- 22 (g) Changes adopted to federal or state laws when such changes no
23 longer permit the continued offering of such coverage.

24 (4)(a) The guarantee of continuity of coverage provided by this
25 section requires that if the pool replaces a plan, it must make the
26 replacement plan available to all individuals in the plan being
27 replaced. The replacement plan must include all of the services
28 covered under the replaced plan, and must not significantly limit
29 access to the kind of services covered under the replacement plan
30 through unreasonable cost-sharing requirements or otherwise. The pool
31 may also allow individuals who are covered by a plan that is being
32 replaced an unrestricted right to transfer to a fully comparable plan.

33 (b) The guarantee of continuity of coverage provided by this
34 section requires that if the pool discontinues offering a plan: (i)
35 The pool must provide notice to each individual of the discontinuation
36 at least ninety days prior to the date of the discontinuation; (ii) the
37 pool must offer to each individual provided coverage under the
38 discontinued plan the option to enroll in any other plan currently

1 offered by the pool for which the individual is otherwise eligible; and
2 (iii) in exercising the option to discontinue a plan and in offering
3 the option of coverage under (b)(ii) of this subsection, the pool must
4 act uniformly without regard to any health status-related factor of
5 enrolled individuals or individuals who may become eligible for this
6 coverage.

7 (c) The pool cannot replace or discontinue a plan under this
8 subsection (4) until it has completed an evaluation of the impact of
9 replacing the plan upon:

10 (i) The cost and quality of care to pool enrollees;

11 (ii) Pool financing and enrollment;

12 (iii) The board's ability to offer comprehensive and other plans to
13 its enrollees;

14 (iv) Other items identified by the board.

15 In its evaluation, the board must request input from the
16 constituents represented by the board members.

17 (d) The guarantee of continuity of coverage provided by this
18 section does not apply if the pool has zero enrollment in a plan.

19 (5) The pool may not change the rates for pool policies except on
20 a class basis, with a clear disclosure in the policy of the pool's
21 right to do so.

22 (6) A pool policy offered under this chapter shall provide that,
23 upon the death of the individual in whose name the policy is issued,
24 every other individual then covered under the policy may elect, within
25 a period specified in the policy, to continue coverage under the same
26 or a different policy.

27 (7) All pool policies issued on or after January 1, 2014, must
28 reflect the new eligibility requirements of RCW 48.41.100 and contain
29 a statement of the intent to discontinue the pool coverage on December
30 31, 2017, under pool nonmedicare plans.

31 (8) Pool policies issued prior to January 1, 2014, shall be
32 modified effective January 1, 2013, consistent with subsection (3)(g)
33 of this section, and contain a statement of the intent to discontinue
34 pool coverage on December 31, 2017, under pool nonmedicare plans.

35 (9) The pool shall discontinue all nonmedicare pool plans effective
36 December 31, 2017.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 48.41.240 and 2012 c 87 s 17 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The board shall review populations that may need ongoing access
4 to coverage through the pool, with specific attention to those persons
5 who may be excluded from or may receive inadequate coverage beginning
6 January 1, 2014, such as persons with end-stage renal disease or
7 HIV/AIDS, or persons not eligible for coverage in the exchange.

8 (2) If the review under subsection (1) of this section indicates a
9 continued need for coverage through the pool after December 31, 2013,
10 the board shall submit recommendations regarding any modifications to
11 pool eligibility requirements for new and ongoing enrollment after
12 December 31, 2013. The recommendations must address any needed
13 modifications to the standard health questionnaire or other eligibility
14 screening tool that could be used in a manner consistent with federal
15 law to determine eligibility for enrollment in the pool.

16 (3) The board shall complete an analysis of current pool assessment
17 requirements in relation to assessments that will fund the reinsurance
18 program and recommend changes to pool assessments or any credits
19 against assessments that may be considered for the reinsurance program.
20 The analysis shall recommend whether the categories of members paying
21 assessments should be adjusted to make the assessment fair and
22 equitable among all payers.

23 (4) The board shall report its recommendations to the governor and
24 the legislature by December 1, 2012.

25 (5) The board shall revisit the study of eligibility completed in
26 2012 with another review of the populations that may need ongoing
27 access to coverage through the pool, to be submitted to the governor
28 and legislature by November 1, 2015. The eligibility study shall
29 include the nonmedicare populations scheduled to lose coverage and
30 medicare populations, and consider whether the enrollees have access to
31 comprehensive coverage alternatives that include appropriate pharmacy
32 coverage. The study shall include recommendations to address any
33 barriers in eligibility that remain in accessing other coverage such as
34 medicare supplemental coverage or comprehensive pharmacy coverage, as
35 well as suggestions for financing changes and recommendations on a
36 future expiration of the pool.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect
2 January 1, 2014."

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By Senators Parlette, Keiser

ADOPTED 02/27/2013

3 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "pool;" strike the remainder
4 of the title and insert "amending RCW 48.41.060, 48.41.160, and
5 48.41.240; reenacting and amending RCW 48.41.100; creating a new
6 section; and providing an effective date."

EFFECT: Modifies the termination of the nonMedicare pool coverage
to December 31, 2017, vs. December 31, 2016.

Committee substitute and this floor amendment change the study of
WSHIP coverage and whether there is access to comprehensive coverage
for populations served by the pool. The study is assigned to the WSHIP
board and is due to the legislature November 1, 2015.

--- END ---