



**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds**

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***CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM***

**DATE:** May 25, 2010  
**TO:** Group Insurance Board  
**FROM:** Matt Stohr, Director  
Office of Legislative Affairs, Communications and Quality Assurance  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Report

**This memorandum is for informational purposes only. No action is necessary.**

As you are aware, the regular business portion of the 2009-2010 Legislative Session concluded on April 22, 2010. This memorandum highlights the new laws of the 2009-2010 Legislative Session that will have an impact on the disability and health insurance programs administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). This memorandum does not include the provisions included in 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 (state biennial budget) or Acts that were passed earlier in the session, such as 2009 Wisconsin Act 14 relating to hearing aids and cochlear implants for persons under 18 years of age.

- 2009 Wisconsin Act 218 removes the minimum statutory requirements for in-patient, out-patient and transitional care. It also establishes requirements for annual mental health screenings. The Act is effective December 1, 2010. The Act will have an insignificant fiscal impact on the health insurance programs administered by ETF. According to the Group Insurance Board's consulting actuary, it does not appear that the Act provides different requirements than the Federal Mental Health Parity Act – which the State Group Health Insurance Program is currently in compliance with.
- 2009 Wisconsin Act 279 requires hearing screening for newborns. The Act is effective May 26, 2010. The Act is not expected to have any material fiscal effect on the state health insurance program or the local government health insurance program because the plans in the program already provide coverage that is not materially different than that required by the Act.
- 2009 Wisconsin Act 282 requires insurance coverage of the services of behavior analysts for autism treatment. The Act is effective on May 26, 2010. The costs to the state and local group health insurance programs are indeterminate.

Reviewed and approved by Rhonda Dunn, Executive Assistant.

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
GIB	6.8.10	4A

- 2009 Wisconsin Act 284 modifies certain aspects of the duty disability program under Wis. Stat. § 40.65. Under the Act, in a proceeding regarding benefits for certain protective occupation participants related to a disability due to certain infectious diseases, there would be a presumption that the disease was caused by the person's employment if that person's pre-employment medical examination showed no evidence of the disease.

The Act is effective May 27, 2010. Based on similar provisions in current law, it is anticipated that very few additional claims will be generated as a result of this change. As such, the increase in administrative costs to ETF is anticipated to be insignificant.

- 2009 Wisconsin Act 285 requires municipal employers to pay for the health insurance of a surviving spouse, if not remarried, and dependent children to age 27 of a firefighter who dies or has previously died in the line of duty, if the municipality pays (or paid) for health insurance for firefighters while they were employed by the municipality. This bill does not apply to the state or the State Group Health Insurance Program, but it does impact municipalities – including the municipalities in the Wisconsin Public Employers Group Health Insurance Program. The act applies retroactively to firefighters who have died in the line of duty before the effective date and to prospective firefighters who die in the line of duty. We have no information upon which to determine the fiscal impact of the Act on local governments.
- 2009 Wisconsin Act 346 requires health insurance policies and plans that cover any diagnostic or surgical procedures to cover colorectal cancer examinations and laboratory tests for any insured or enrollee who is 50 years of age or older or any insured or enrollee who is under 50 years of age and at high risk for colorectal cancer.

The Act is effective December 1, 2010. The Act is not expected to have any material fiscal effect on the state health insurance program or the local government health insurance program because the plans in the program already provide coverage that is not materially different than that required by the Act.

I will attend the June 8, 2010, meeting to answer any questions you may have.