



STATE OF WISCONSIN
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CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 12, 2011
TO: Group Insurance Board
FROM: Shawn Smith, Director
Office of Communications and Legislation
SUBJECT: Legislative Report

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is necessary.

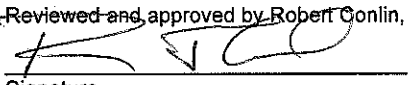
Since the last Group Insurance Board (Board) meeting in August, action has been taken on several legislative initiatives that may impact the group health plans administered by the Board.

Updates on Bills Discussed in August

Assembly Bill (AB) 127 proposes changes to the collective bargaining rights of public safety employees under the Municipal Employment Relations Act (MERA) so that an employer is not required to bargain over the selection of health care coverage plans, including the option for an employer to offer a health savings account. The bill also prohibits bargaining over the employer share of premium costs as long as the employer share is at least 75% (or 90% if the plan is a health savings account). There has been no significant legislative activity on this bill.

Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 28/Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 21 is a proposed constitutional amendment that affirms "the right of the people to contract privately for health care services and health care coverage, and prohibiting requiring a person to obtain or maintain health insurance coverage or to participate in any health care system or plan." There has been no significant legislative activity on this resolution.

AB 27/Senate Bill (SB) 18 requires political subdivisions to pay health insurance premiums for survivors of a law enforcement officer who dies, or has died, in the line of duty. This bill passed the Senate unanimously in May and several notable co-sponsors

Reviewed and approved by Robert Conlin, Deputy Secretary.

Signature _____ Date 10/18/11

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GIB	11.8.11	6A

have been added to the bill. It was referred to the Assembly Urban and Local Affairs Committee and then referred to the Joint Committee on Finance who scheduled executive action on the bill for October 12, 2011.

AB 151/SB 101 prohibits health plans from requiring higher co-pays, deductibles or coinsurance for oral chemotherapy than is required for injected or intravenous chemotherapy. There has been no significant legislative activity on this bill.

SB 153 would permit governmental employers who are not participating members of the Wisconsin Retirement System to be covered in the local government health insurance plan offered by the Board. This bill had a hearing on September 29, 2011. The department has no position on the bill.

AB 210 incorporates the health insurance coverage requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) into the Wisconsin statutes. This bill is scheduled to go before the full Assembly on October 18, 2011.

New Items Introduced

AB 219 prohibits a local government from providing post retirement health care benefits to any employee, unless the benefit is fully-funded on an actuarial basis. This bill had a hearing September 28, 2011. The author submitted two amendments after the hearing to specifically include the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Public School District in the bill.

I will be available at the Board meeting to answer any questions you may have.