



North Carolina
State Health Plan
FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES



Legislative Update: Approved/Pending Legislation

Board of Trustees Meeting

July 26, 2013

A Division of the Department of State Treasurer

House and Senate Bills Update

- In addition to the budget proposals there are several health care related bills that successfully “crossed over” that would impact the State Health Plan
- The following slides highlight:
 - Legislation that has become law
 - Ratified bills sent to the Governor
 - Summary of crossed over legislation that could be discussed in the next session

Legislation Signed by the Governor

HB 232: State Health Plan/Statutory Changes/Agency Bill

- Bill Summary:
 1. Redefines and broadens eligibility rules based on ACA
 2. Clarifies the period in which retirees can enroll (similar to legislation enacted last year for active employees)
 3. Repeals the requirement to collect certain penalties/interest
- Bill Status: Signed by Governor (SL 2013-324)
- Fiscal Impact: Negligible

HB 459: Chronic Care Coordination Act

- Bill Summary:
 1. Requires the Divisions of Public Health and Medical Assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of State Treasurer to identify goals and benchmarks while also developing individual entity plans to reduce the incidence of chronic conditions and improve care coordination in North Carolina
 2. Provide annual progress reports to the House and Senate Appropriations committees and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
- Bill Status: Signed by Governor (SL 2013-207)
- Fiscal Impact: Negligible

SB 98: Require Pulse Oximetry Newborn Screening

- Bill Summary:
 1. Adds Pulse Oximetry screening requirements to all newborn screenings
 2. Requires follow-up protocols for newborns identified as having congenital heart defects
- Bill Status: Signed by Governor (SL 2013-45)
- Fiscal Impact: Negligible

Included in May BOT Legislative Update

SB 248: Choice of Hearing Aid Specialist

- Bill Summary:
 - An Act to Ensure that Patients Have the Right to Choose Their Hearing Aid Specialist Under Their Health Benefit Plans, to Authorize the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board to Increase Certain Fees, and to Make Technical Changes to the Statute on Choosing Services of Providers.
- Bill Status: Signed by Governor (SL 2013-296)
- Fiscal Impact: Negligible

SB 336: Collaboration Among State Diabetes Programs

- Bill Summary:
 1. Requires the Divisions of Medical Assistance and Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of State Treasurer to work together to develop plans and establish goals and objectives to reduce the incidence of diabetes, improve diabetes care, and control complications associated with diabetes
 2. Provide progress reports every other year to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services
- Bill Status: Signed by Governor (SL 2013-192)
- Fiscal Impact: Negligible

Ratified Bills Sent to the Governor

HB 675: Amend Pharmacy Laws

- Bill Summary:
 1. Restricts the right to recoup from pharmacists in the event of audit findings
 2. Restricts the amount that may be recouped in the event of audit findings
- Bill Status: Sent to Governor
- Projected Biennium Fiscal Impact = \$3.2M to \$3.4M revenue loss
 - Projected Fiscal Impact remains based on older version of bill and financial impact may be revised; SHP worked with Senate staff on language

SB 473: Health Care Cost Reduction and Transparency

Bill Summary (as it relates to SHP):

- Each hospital will report the combined range of payments and average payment for the top five insurers and SHP for the following:
 1. Inpatient: Effective at the end of June 2014, report on each of the top 100 DRGs
 2. Outpatient/Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC): Effective at the end of September 2014, report each of the top 20 most common surgery and imaging procedures
- Requires SHP to establish a workgroup to examine the best way to provide transparency in pricing
 - First report of findings is due December 31, 2013
- Bill Status: Sent to Governor
- Fiscal Impact: None

Summary of Key Crossed Over Legislation Eligible for Consideration in the 2014 Short Session

HB 498: Autism Health Insurance Coverage

- Bill Summary:
 1. Requires the Plan to provide annual coverage of \$36,000 for autism behavioral treatment benefits (some benefits not covered currently)
 2. Coverage is for individuals age 23 and under
- Bill Status: Passed the House, referred to Senate Committee on Insurance
- Projected Biennium Fiscal Impact = \$2.9M to \$6.0M increase in expenses

SB 477: No Set Fee/Noncovered Vision Services

- Bill Summary:

Prohibits Insurers and Health Benefit Plans from limiting or fixing the fees an Optometrist may charge patients for services or materials unless the services or materials are covered by reimbursement under the Plan or insurer contract with the Optometrist, and to require Optometrists to provide a written disclosure to patients.

- Currently, BCBSNC provides vision discounts through their discount program available to individuals covered by BCBSNC, including State Health Plan members
- Bill Status: Passed the Senate, referred to House Committee on Insurance
- Fiscal Impact: None