

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1586

**Introduced by Assembly Members Koretz, Goldberg, Laird,
Leno, and Lieber**

(Principal coauthor: Senator Kuehl)

(~~Coauthor: Senator Kehoe~~ *Coauthors: Senators Kehoe and Migden*)

February 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 1365.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Section ~~679.71~~ 10140 of the Insurance Code, relating to insurance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1586, as amended, Koretz. Insurers: health care service plans: discrimination.

Existing law provides for licensing and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care. Existing law provides for licensing and regulation of insurers by the Department of Insurance.

Existing law prohibits certain discriminatory acts by health care service plans and insurers, ~~including discrimination based on the sex of an enrollee or insured.~~ *With respect to health care service plans, certain discrimination based on the sex of an enrollee is prohibited. With respect to life and disability insurers, an insurer may not refuse to accept an insurance application, or issue or cancel insurance under conditions less favorable to the insured than in other comparable cases, except for reasons applicable alike to persons of every race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation. The Insurance Commissioner has authority to assess specified administrative penalties for a violation of these provisions.*

This bill, *would add “sex” to the insurance provision on life and disability insurers. The bill, for purposes of both of these provisions, would provide that “sex” includes, but is not limited to, a person’s gender, shall have the same meaning as “gender” as defined.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1365.5 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:

3 1365.5. (a) No health care service plan or specialized health
4 care service plan shall refuse to enter into any contract or shall
5 cancel or decline to renew or reinstate any contract because of
6 the race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital
7 status, sexual orientation, or age of any contracting party,
8 prospective contracting party, or person reasonably expected to
9 benefit from that contract as a subscriber, enrollee, member, or
10 otherwise.

11 (b) The terms of any contract shall not be modified, and the
12 benefits or coverage of any contract shall not be subject to any
13 limitations, exceptions, exclusions, reductions, copayments,
14 coinsurance, deductibles, reservations, or premium, price, or
15 charge differentials, or other modifications because of the race,
16 color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status,
17 sexual orientation, or age of any contracting party, potential
18 contracting party, or person reasonably expected to benefit from
19 that contract as a subscriber, enrollee, member, or otherwise;
20 except that premium, price, or charge differentials because of the
21 sex or age of any individual when based on objective, valid, and
22 up-to-date statistical and actuarial data are not prohibited.
23 Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a health care
24 service plan to charge different premium rates to individual
25 enrollees within the same group solely on the basis of the
26 enrollee’s sex.

27 (c) It shall be deemed a violation of subdivision (a) for any
28 health care service plan to utilize marital status, living
29 arrangements, occupation, ~~gender~~ sex, beneficiary designation,
30 zip codes or other territorial classification, or any combination
31 thereof for the purpose of establishing sexual orientation.

1 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter in any manner
2 the existing law prohibiting health care service plans from
3 conducting tests for the presence of human immunodeficiency
4 virus or evidence thereof.

5 (d) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of
6 the director to adopt or enforce regulations prohibiting
7 discrimination because of sex, marital status, or sexual
8 orientation.

9 ~~(e) As used in this section, "sex" includes, but is not limited~~
10 ~~to, a person's gender, as defined in Section 422.56 of the Penal~~
11 ~~Code.~~

12 *(e) "Sex" as used in this section shall have the same meaning*
13 *as "gender," as defined in Section 422.56 of the Penal Code.*

14 ~~SEC. 2. Section 679.71 of the Insurance Code is amended to~~
15 ~~read:~~

16 ~~679.71. No admitted insurer, licensed to issue any policy of~~
17 ~~insurance covered by this chapter, shall fail or refuse to accept an~~
18 ~~application for, or to issue a policy to an applicant for, such~~
19 ~~insurance (unless such insurance is to be issued to the applicant~~
20 ~~by another insurer under the same management and control), or~~
21 ~~cancel such insurance, under conditions less favorable to the~~
22 ~~insured than in other comparable cases, except for reasons~~
23 ~~applicable alike to persons of every marital status, sex, race,~~
24 ~~color, religion, national origin, or ancestry; nor shall sex, race,~~
25 ~~color, religion, national origin, or ancestry of itself constitute a~~
26 ~~condition or risk for which a higher rate, premium, or charge may~~
27 ~~be required of the insured for such insurance.~~

28 ~~As used in this section, "sex" includes, but is not limited to, a~~
29 ~~person's gender, as defined in Section 422.56 of the Penal Code.~~

30 ~~SEC. 2. Section 10140 of the Insurance Code is amended to~~
31 ~~read:~~

32 10140. (a) No admitted insurer, licensed to issue life or
33 disability insurance, shall fail or refuse to accept an application
34 for that insurance, to issue that insurance to an applicant therefor,
35 or issue or cancel that insurance, under conditions less favorable
36 to the insured than in other comparable cases, except for reasons
37 applicable alike to persons of every race, color, religion, *sex*,
38 national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation. Race, color,
39 religion, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation shall not,
40 of itself, constitute a condition or risk for which a higher rate,

1 premium, or charge may be required of the insured for that
2 insurance.

3 (b) Except as otherwise permitted by law, no admitted insurer,
4 licensed to issue disability insurance policies for hospital,
5 medical, and surgical expenses, shall fail or refuse to accept an
6 application for that insurance, fail or refuse to issue that
7 insurance to an applicant therefor, cancel that insurance, refuse to
8 renew that insurance, charge a higher rate or premium for that
9 insurance, or offer or provide different terms, conditions, or
10 benefits, or place a limitation on coverage under that insurance,
11 on the basis of a person's genetic characteristics that may, under
12 some circumstances, be associated with disability in that person
13 or that person's offspring.

14 (c) No admitted insurer, licensed to issue disability insurance
15 for hospital, medical, and surgical expenses, shall seek
16 information about a person's genetic characteristics for any
17 nontherapeutic purpose.

18 (d) No discrimination shall be made in the fees or
19 commissions of agents or brokers for writing or renewing a
20 policy of disability insurance, other than disability income, on the
21 basis of a person's genetic characteristics that may, under some
22 circumstances, be associated with disability in that person or that
23 person's offspring.

24 (e) It shall be deemed a violation of subdivision (a) for any
25 insurer to consider sexual orientation in its underwriting criteria
26 or to utilize marital status, living arrangements, occupation,
27 ~~gender~~ sex, beneficiary designation, ZIP Codes or other territorial
28 classification within this state, or any combination thereof for the
29 purpose of establishing sexual orientation or determining whether
30 to require a test for the presence of the human immunodeficiency
31 virus or antibodies to that virus, where that testing is otherwise
32 permitted by law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
33 alter, expand, or limit in any manner the existing law respecting
34 the authority of insurers to conduct tests for the presence of
35 human immunodeficiency virus or evidence thereof.

36 (f) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of
37 the commissioner to adopt regulations prohibiting discrimination
38 because of sex, marital status, or sexual orientation or to enforce
39 these regulations, whether adopted before or on or after January
40 1, 1991.

1 (g) “Genetic characteristics” as used in this section shall have
2 the same meaning as defined in Section 10123.3.

3 (h) “Sex” as used in this section shall have the same meaning
4 as “gender,” as defined in Section 422.56 of the Penal Code.

5 SEC. 3. This act is not intended to mandate that health care
6 service plans or insurers must provide coverage for any
7 particular benefit. Rather, it is intended to prohibit plans and
8 insurers from denying an individual a plan contract or coverage
9 for a benefit included in the contract or policy, based on the
10 person’s sex, as defined.