

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 8, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2013

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 780**

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**Introduced by Senator Jackson**

February 22, 2013

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An act to amend Section 1373.65 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Sections 10123.12, 10601, and 10604 of, and to add Section 10133.57 to, the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 780, as amended, Jackson. Health care coverage.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime.

Existing law requires a health care service plan to submit a filing to the department at least 75 days prior to the termination date of its contract with a provider group or a general acute care hospital that includes the written notice the plan proposes to send to its affected enrollees. The filing is required to be reviewed and approved by the department prior to the notice being sent *to* the enrollees. Existing law also requires the plan to provide written notice to affected enrollees, as provided, prior to the termination date of a contract between the plan and a provider group or a general acute care hospital. A plan operating as a preferred provider organization is only required to send the written notice to all enrollees who reside within a 15-mile radius of a terminated hospital if it is a general acute care hospital.

This bill would delete the requirements with regard to preferred provider organizations. The bill would change the timing of the 75-day filing to 45 30 days prior to the termination date for a contract between a health care service plan that is not a health maintenance organization and a provider group or general acute care hospital, ~~and would not prohibit the plan from sending the notice to the enrollees prior to the filing being reviewed and approved by the department.~~ The bill would distinguish between enrollees of an assigned group provider and enrollees of an unassigned group provider for purposes of whether the filing is required to be submitted to the department. The bill would also require that the plan send a ~~department approved~~ *department-approved* written notice to the enrollees, whether or not a filing was required, when a provider group contract or a general acute care hospital contract is terminated. The bill would distinguish between the enrollees of an assigned or an unassigned provider group or general acute care hospital with regard to the timing of the consumer notice and method of delivery, ~~and delivery. With respect to the termination of a contract with an unassigned provider group or general acute care hospital, the bill would impose specified continued access to services requirements, billing requirements, and requirements to obtain information on plans and providers for the enrollees of an unassigned provider group or an unassigned general acute care hospital from the terminated provider group or general acute care hospital regarding enrollees who have services scheduled with the terminated provider group or general acute care hospital for after the termination date using a process agreed upon in the terminating contract. The bill would authorize the department to develop a standard format for the required notices.~~ Because a willful violation of these requirements ~~with respect to health care service plans~~ would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Under existing law, a health insurer may contract with providers for alternative rates of payment. Existing law requires those insurers to file a policy with the department describing how the insurer facilitates the continuity of care for new insureds under group policies receiving services for an acute condition from a noncontracting provider. Existing law also requires those health insurers to, at the request of an insured, arrange for the completion of covered services by a terminated provider if the insured is undergoing treatment for certain conditions, as specified.

This bill would require, among other things, a health insurer to submit a filing to the department, at least 30 days prior to the termination date of its contract with a provider group or a general acute care hospital to provide services at alternative rates of payment, that includes the written notice the insurer proposes to send to its insureds. The bill would require the filing to be reviewed and approved by the department prior to the notice being sent to the insureds. The bill would set a threshold for the number of insureds receiving health care services from a group provider within the preceding 12 months for purposes of whether the filing is required to be submitted to the department. The bill would also require that the health insurer send a ~~department-approved~~ written notice to specified insureds, whether or not a filing was required, when a provider group contract or a general acute care hospital contract is terminated, and would impose specified continued access to services requirements, billing requirements, and requirements to obtain information ~~on insurers and providers for insureds receiving health care services from a terminated provider group or general acute care hospital~~ *from the terminated provider group or general acute care hospital regarding insureds who have services scheduled with the terminated provider group or general acute care hospital for after the termination date using a process agreed upon in the terminating contract.* The bill would authorize the department to develop a standard format for the required notices.

Existing law requires disability insurance policies to include a disclosure form that contains specified information, including the principal benefits and coverage of the policy, the exceptions, reductions, and limitations that apply to the policy, and a statement, with respect to health insurance policies, describing how participation in the policy may affect the choice of physician, hospital, or health care providers, and describing the extent of financial liability that may be incurred if care is furnished by a nonparticipating provider.

With respect to health insurance policies, this bill would require the disclosure form to include additional information, including conditions and procedures for cancellation, rescission, or nonrenewal, a description of the limitations on the insured's choice of provider, and, with respect to insurers that contract for alternate rates of payment, a statement describing the basic method of reimbursement made to its participating providers, as specified. The bill would also require the first page of the disclosure form for health insurance policies to include other specified information. The bill would require a health insurer, medical group, or

participating provider that uses or receives financial bonuses or other incentives to provide a written summary of specified information to any requesting person.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1373.65 of the Health and Safety Code  
2 is amended to read:

3 1373.65. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following  
4 terms have the following meanings:

5 (1) “Assigned general acute care hospital” means a general acute  
6 care hospital to which the health care service plan, either directly  
7 or through its contracts with its delegated entities, directs enrollees  
8 to receive nonemergency services.

9 (2) “Assigned provider group” means a provider group to which  
10 a health care service plan directs its enrollees to receive specialty  
11 physician services or a provider group that includes primary care  
12 physicians to which a health care service plan assigns its members.

13 (3) “Provider group” means a medical group, independent  
14 practice association, or any other similar organization.

15 (4) “Unassigned general acute care hospital” is a general acute  
16 care hospital that is not an assigned general acute care hospital.

17 (5) “Unassigned provider group” means a provider group that  
18 is not an assigned provider group.

19 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), at least 75 days  
20 prior to the termination date of its contract with a provider group  
21 or a general acute care hospital, the health care service plan shall  
22 submit a filing to the department that includes the written notice  
23 the plan proposes to send to enrollees. The plan shall not send this  
24 notice to enrollees until the department has reviewed and approved  
25 the filing. If the department does not respond within seven days  
26 of the date of its receipt of the filing, the filing shall be deemed  
27 approved.

1       (2) At least 30 days prior to the termination date of a contract  
2 between a health care service plan that is not a health maintenance  
3 organization and a provider group or a general acute care hospital,  
4 the health care service plan shall submit a filing to the department  
5 that includes the written notice the plan proposes to send to  
6 enrollees. *The plan shall not send this notice to enrollees until the*  
7 *department has reviewed and approved the filing. If the department*  
8 *does not respond to the plan within seven days of the date of its*  
9 *receipt of the filing, the filing shall be deemed approved.*

10     (3) For the purposes of a termination with an assigned provider  
11 group or assigned general acute care hospital, the health care  
12 service plan shall submit a filing to the department, as required by  
13 paragraph (1), if 2,000 or more enrollees will be transferred or  
14 redirected by the plan from the assigned provider group as a result  
15 of the termination of the provider contract.

16     (4) For purposes of a termination with an unassigned provider  
17 group, the health care service plan shall submit a filing to the  
18 department, as required by paragraph (1) or (2), if 1,700 or more  
19 enrollees were treated by the unassigned provider group within  
20 the 12 months preceding the filing date specified in paragraph (1)  
21 or (2).

22     (5) The director may adopt by regulation a different filing  
23 threshold from the threshold stated in paragraphs (3) and (4), and  
24 in consultation with the Department of Insurance, may adopt by  
25 regulation a different filing threshold from the threshold stated in  
26 paragraphs (3) and (4).

27     (c) (1) In the event of a contract termination between a health  
28 care service plan and an assigned provider group or an assigned  
29 general acute care hospital, the plan shall do all of the following:

30       (A) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b) by  
31 United States mail at least 60 days prior to the termination date to  
32 enrollees who are assigned to the terminated provider group or  
33 general acute care hospital.

34       (B) A plan that is unable to comply with the timeframe in  
35 subparagraph (A) because of exigent circumstances shall apply to  
36 the department for a waiver. The plan shall be excused from  
37 complying with the 60-day notice requirement only if its waiver  
38 application is granted by the department or the department does  
39 not respond within seven days of the date of its receipt of the  
40 waiver application.

1       (2) In the event of a contract termination between a health care  
2 service plan and an unassigned provider group or an unassigned  
3 general acute care hospital, the plan shall do all of the following:

4       (A) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within  
5 five business days of the contract termination with an unassigned  
6 provider group, to all of the following persons:

7           (i) Any unassigned enrollee who has received health care  
8 services from the terminated provider group within the 12 months  
9 preceding the date of termination.

10         (ii) Any unassigned enrollee who has any health care services  
11 authorized, but not yet scheduled as of the date of termination, or  
12 scheduled for after the date of termination with the terminated  
13 provider group.

14         (B) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within  
15 five business days of the contract termination with an unassigned  
16 general acute care hospital, to all of the following persons:

17           (i) Any enrollee who has received health care services from the  
18 terminated general acute care hospital within the 12 months  
19 preceding the date of termination.

20           (ii) Any enrollee who is assigned to a provider group with any  
21 physicians who have exclusive admitting privileges to the  
22 terminated general acute care hospital.

23           (iii) Any enrollee who has health care services authorized, but  
24 not yet scheduled as of the date of termination, or scheduled for  
25 after the date of termination at the terminated general acute care  
26 hospital.

27         (C) Allow enrollees to continue to access services that were  
28 authorized or scheduled at the terminated unassigned provider  
29 group or unassigned general acute care hospital prior to the date  
30 of either the notice required by subdivisions (c) and (d), or the  
31 termination, whichever is later, regardless of whether the enrollee  
32 has requested completion of covered services. Those services shall  
33 be provided from the date of the contract termination until  
34 completion of the authorized or scheduled services for at least 60  
35 days from the date of either the notice or the termination, whichever  
36 is later. The amount of, and the requirement for payment of,  
37 copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, and other cost-sharing  
38 components by an enrollee during the period of completion of  
39 authorized or scheduled services with a terminated provider group  
40 or general acute care hospital pursuant to this subparagraph shall

1 be the same that would be paid by the enrollee when receiving  
2 care from a provider currently contracting with or employed by  
3 the plan.

4 (D) Provide reimbursement for services provided under  
5 subparagraph (C)~~either~~ at a rate agreed upon by the health care  
6 service plan and the terminated provider group or general acute  
7 care hospital ~~or hospital. If there is not an agreement,~~  
8 *reimbursement shall be at the rate for those services as provided*  
9 in the terminating contract. In no event shall the provider bill the  
10 patient for the cost of services beyond the copayment, deductible,  
11 or other cost-sharing components of what the enrollee would have  
12 been responsible for if the provider group or general acute care  
13 hospital was currently contracted with the health care service plan.

14 (E) Obtain information from the terminated provider group or  
15 general acute care hospital regarding enrollees who have health  
16 care services scheduled for after the date of termination with the  
17 terminated provider group or general acute care hospital, including  
18 the names of those enrollees and the dates on which their services  
19 were ~~scheduled~~ *scheduled by using the process agreed to in the*  
20 *terminating contract.* Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a  
21 terminated provider group or general acute care hospital ~~shall~~  
22 comply with a health care service plan's request for that  
23 information. *and the health care service plan shall comply with*  
24 *the process in the terminating contract.*

25 (d) Even if a filing is not required to be submitted by subdivision  
26 (b), a health care service plan shall send enrollee notices as required  
27 by subdivision (c). A health care service plan may only send  
28 enrollee notices for which a template has been filed and approved  
29 by the department pursuant to Section 1373.95. *The department*  
30 *may develop a standard format for notices to be sent as required*  
31 *by this section.*

32 (e) If an individual provider terminates his or her contract or  
33 employment with a provider group that contracts with a health  
34 care service plan, the plan may require that the provider group  
35 send the notices required by subdivisions (c) and (d).

36 (f) If, after sending the notices required by subdivisions (c) and  
37 (d), a health care service plan reaches an agreement with any  
38 terminated provider group or general acute care hospital to renew  
39 or enter into a new contract or to not terminate their contract, the  
40 plan shall send a subsequent written notice to all enrollees that

1    were sent the notices required by subdivisions (c) and (d) informing  
2    them of the status. The plan shall offer each affected enrollee the  
3    option to return to that provider group or general acute care  
4    hospital. If an assigned enrollee does not exercise this option, the  
5    plan shall reassign the enrollee to another provider group or general  
6    acute care hospital.

7    (g) A health care service plan and a provider group or general  
8    acute care hospital shall include in all written, printed, or electronic  
9    communications sent to an enrollee that concern the contract  
10   termination or block transfer, the following statement in not less  
11   than 12-point type:

12   “If you have been receiving care from a health care provider,  
13   you may have a right to keep your provider for a designated time  
14   period. Please contact your HMO’s customer service department,  
15   and if you have further questions, you are encouraged to contact  
16   the Department of Managed Health Care, which protects HMO  
17   consumers, by telephone at its toll-free number, 1-888-HMO-2219,  
18   or at a TDD number for the hearing impaired at 1-877-688-9891,  
19   or online at [www.hmohelp.ca.gov](http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov).<sup>”</sup>

20  

21   (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the rights  
22   or protections of enrollees under Section 1373.96.

23   SEC. 2. Section 10123.12 of the Insurance Code is amended  
24   to read:

25   10123.12. (a) Every health insurer, including those insurers  
26   that contract for alternative rates of payment pursuant to Section  
27   10133, and every self-insured employee welfare benefit plan that  
28   will affect the choice of physician, hospital, or other health care  
29   providers, shall include within its disclosure form and within its  
30   evidence or certificate of coverage a statement clearly describing  
31   how participation in the policy or plan may affect the choice of  
32   physician, hospital, or other health care providers, and describing  
33   the nature and extent of the financial liability that is, or that may  
34   be, incurred by the insured, enrollee, or covered dependents if care  
35   is furnished by a provider that does not have a contract with the  
36   insurer or plan to provide service at alternative rates of payment  
37   pursuant to Section 10133. The form shall clearly inform  
38   prospective insureds or plan enrollees that participation in the  
39   policy or plan will affect the person’s choice in this regard by

1 placing the following statement in a conspicuous place on all  
2 material required to be given to prospective insureds or plan  
3 enrollees including promotional and descriptive material, disclosure  
4 forms, and certificates and evidences of coverage:

5  
6       **PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SO**  
7       **YOU WILL KNOW FROM WHOM OR WHAT GROUP OF**  
8       **PROVIDERS HEALTH CARE MAY BE OBTAINED**

9  
10      It is not the intent of this section to require that the names of  
11 individual health care providers be enumerated to prospective  
12 insureds or enrollees.

13      If a health insurer providing coverage for hospital, medical, or  
14 surgical expenses provides a list of facilities to patients or  
15 contracting providers, the insurer shall include within the listing  
16 a notification that insureds or enrollees may contact the insurer in  
17 order to obtain a list of the facilities with which the health insurer  
18 is contracting for subacute care and/or transitional inpatient care.

19      (b) Every health insurer that contracts for alternative rates of  
20 payment pursuant to Section 10133 shall include within its  
21 disclosure form a statement clearly describing the basic method  
22 of reimbursement, including the scope and general methods of  
23 payment, made to its contracting providers of health care services,  
24 and whether financial bonuses or any other incentives are used.  
25 The disclosure form shall indicate that, if an insured wishes to  
26 know more about these issues, the insured may request additional  
27 information from the insurer, the insured's provider, or the  
28 provider's medical group regarding the information required  
29 pursuant to subdivision (c).

30      (c) If a health insurer, medical group, or participating health  
31 care provider uses or receives financial bonuses or any other  
32 incentives, the insurer, medical group, or health care provider shall  
33 provide a written summary to any person who requests it that  
34 includes both of the following:

35      (1) A general description of the bonus and any other incentive  
36 arrangements used in its compensation agreements. Nothing in  
37 this paragraph shall be construed to require disclosure of trade  
38 secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged  
39 or confidential, such as payment rates, as determined by the  
40 commissioner, pursuant to state law.

1       (2) A description regarding whether, and in what manner, the  
2 bonuses and any other incentives are related to a provider's use of  
3 referral services.

4       (d) The statements and written information provided pursuant  
5 to subdivisions (b) and (c) shall be communicated in clear and  
6 simple language that enables consumers to evaluate and compare  
7 health insurance policies.

8       SEC. 3. Section 10133.57 is added to the Insurance Code, to  
9 read:

10      10133.57. (a) For purposes of this section, "provider group"  
11 means a medical group, independent practice association, or any  
12 other similar organization.

13      (b) (1) At least ~~45~~ 30 days prior to the termination date of its  
14 contract with a provider group or a general acute care hospital to  
15 provide services at alternative rates of payment pursuant to Section  
16 10133, the health insurer shall submit a filing to the department  
17 that includes the written notice the insurer proposes to send to the  
18 insureds. The insurer shall not send this notice to the insureds until  
19 the department has reviewed and approved the filing. If the  
20 department does not respond to the insurer within seven days of  
21 the date of its receipt of the filing, the filing shall be deemed  
22 approved.

23      (2) For purposes of a termination with a provider group, the  
24 health insurer shall submit a filing to the department, as required  
25 by paragraph (1), if 1,700 or more insureds were treated by the  
26 provider group within the 12 months preceding the filing date  
27 specified in paragraph (1).

28      (3) The department, in consultation with the Department of  
29 Managed Health Care, may adopt by regulation a different filing  
30 threshold from the threshold stated in paragraph (2).

31      (c) In the event of a contract termination between a health  
32 insurer and a provider group or general acute care hospital, the  
33 insurer shall do all of the following:

34       (1) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within  
35 five business days of the contract termination with a provider  
36 group, to all of the following persons:

37       (A) Any insured who has received health care services from the  
38 terminated provider group within the 12 months preceding the date  
39 of termination.

1       (B) Any insured who has any health care services authorized,  
2 but not yet scheduled as of the date of termination, or scheduled  
3 for after the date of termination with the terminated provider group.

4       (2) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within  
5 five business days of the contract termination with a general acute  
6 care hospital, to all of the following persons:

7       (A) Any insured who has received health care services from the  
8 terminated general acute care hospital within the 12 months  
9 preceding the date of termination.

10     (B) Any insured who has health care services authorized, but  
11 not yet scheduled as of the date of termination, or scheduled for  
12 after the date of termination at the terminated general acute care  
13 hospital.

14     (3) Allow insureds to continue to access services that were  
15 authorized or scheduled at the terminated provider group or general  
16 acute care hospital prior to the date of either the notice required  
17 by subdivisions (c) and (d), or the termination, whichever is later,  
18 regardless of whether the insured has requested completion of  
19 covered services. Those services shall be provided from the date  
20 of the contract termination until completion of the authorized or  
21 scheduled services for at least 60 days from the date of either the  
22 notice or the termination, whichever is later. The amount of, and  
23 the requirement for payment of, copayments, deductibles,  
24 coinsurance, and other cost-sharing components by an insured  
25 during the period of completion of authorized or scheduled services  
26 with a terminated provider group or general acute care hospital  
27 pursuant to this paragraph shall be the same that would be paid by  
28 the insured when receiving care from a provider currently  
29 contracting with the insurer.

30     (4) Provide reimbursement for services provided under  
31 paragraph (3)–either at a rate agreed upon by the insurer and the  
32 terminated provider group or general acute care hospital or hospital.  
33 *If there is not an agreement, reimbursement shall be at the rate*  
34 for those services as provided in the terminating contract. In no  
35 event shall the provider bill the patient for the cost of services  
36 beyond the copayment, deductible, or other cost-sharing  
37 components of what the insured would have been responsible for  
38 if the provider group or general acute care hospital was currently  
39 contracted with the insurer.

1       (5) Obtain information from the terminated provider group or  
2 general acute care hospital regarding insureds who have health  
3 care services scheduled for after the date of termination with the  
4 terminated provider group or general acute care hospital, including  
5 the names of those insureds and the dates on which their services  
6 were ~~scheduled~~. *scheduled by using the process agreed to in the*  
7 *terminating contract.* Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a  
8 terminated provider group or general acute care hospital ~~shall~~  
9 ~~comply with a health insurer's request for that information. and~~  
10 *the health insurer shall comply with the process in the terminating*  
11 *contract.*

12     (d) Even if a filing is not required to be submitted by subdivision  
13 (b), a health insurer shall send insured notices as required by  
14 subdivision (c). A health insurer may only send insured notices  
15 that have been filed and approved by the department pursuant to  
16 this section. *The department may develop a standard format for*  
17 *notices to be sent as required by this section.*

18     (e) If an individual provider terminates his or her contract or  
19 employment with a provider group that contracts with a health  
20 insurer, the insurer may require that the provider group send the  
21 notices required by subdivisions (c) and (d).

22     (f) If, after sending the notices required by subdivisions (c) and  
23 (d), a health insurer reaches an agreement with a terminated  
24 provider group or general acute care hospital to renew or enter  
25 into a new contract or to not terminate its contract, the insurer shall  
26 send a subsequent written notice to all insureds that were sent the  
27 notices required by subdivisions (c) and (d) informing those  
28 insureds that the provider group or hospital remains in their  
29 provider network.

30     (g) A health insurer or a provider group shall include in all  
31 written, printed, or electronic communications sent to an insured  
32 that concern the contract termination, the following statement in  
33 not less than 12-point type:

34  
35     “If you have been receiving care from a health care provider,  
36 you may have a right to keep your provider for a designated time  
37 period. Please contact your insurer’s customer service department,  
38 and if you have further questions, you are encouraged to contact  
39 the Department of Insurance, which protects insurance consumers,  
40 by telephone at its toll-free number, 800-927-HELP (4357), or at

1 a TDD number for the hearing impaired at 800-482-4833, or online  
2 at [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov).”

3  
4 (h) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with  
5 the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with  
6 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government  
7 Code) that are necessary to implement the provisions of this  
8 section.

9 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the rights  
10 or protections of insureds under Section 10133.56.

11 SEC. 4. Section 10601 of the Insurance Code is amended to  
12 read:

13 10601. As used in this chapter:

14 (a) “Benefits and coverage” means the accident, sickness, or  
15 disability indemnity available under a policy of disability insurance.

16 (b) “Exception” means any provision in a policy whereby  
17 coverage for a specified hazard or condition is entirely eliminated.

18 (c) “Reduction” means any provision in a policy that reduces  
19 the amount of a policy benefit to some amount or period less than  
20 would be otherwise payable for medically authorized expenses or  
21 services had the reduction not been used.

22 (d) “Limitation” means any provision other than an exception  
23 or a reduction that restricts coverage under the policy.

24 (e) “Presenting for examination or sale” means either (1)  
25 publication and dissemination of any brochure, mailer,  
26 advertisement, or form that constitutes a presentation of the  
27 provisions of the policy and that provides a policy enrollment or  
28 application form, or (2) consultations or discussions between  
29 prospective beneficiaries or their contract agents and employees  
30 or agents of disability insurers, when those consultations or  
31 discussions include presentation of formal, organized information  
32 about the policy that is intended to influence or inform the  
33 prospective insured or beneficiary, such as brochures, summaries,  
34 charts, slides, or other modes of information in lieu of or in addition  
35 to the policy itself.

36 (f) “Disability insurance” means every policy of disability  
37 insurance and self-insured employee welfare benefit plan issued,  
38 delivered, or entered into pursuant to or described in Chapter 1  
39 (commencing with Section 10110) or Chapter 4 (commencing with  
40 Section 10270) of this part.

1       (g) “Insurer” means every insurer transacting disability insurance  
2 and every self-insured employee welfare plan specified in  
3 subdivision (f).

4       (h) “Disclosure form” means the standard supplemental  
5 disclosure form required pursuant to Section 10603.

6       (i) “Small group health insurance policy” means a group health  
7 insurance policy issued to a small employer, as defined in Section  
8 10700, 10753, or 10755.

9       SEC. 5. Section 10604 of the Insurance Code is amended to  
10 read:

11       10604. The disclosure form shall include at least the following  
12 information, in concise and specific terms, relative to the disability  
13 insurance policy, together with additional information as the  
14 commissioner may require in connection with the policy:

15       (a) The applicable category or categories of coverage provided  
16 by the policy, from among the following:

- 17           (1) Basic hospital expense coverage.
- 18           (2) Basic medical-surgical expense coverage.
- 19           (3) Hospital confinement indemnity coverage.
- 20           (4) Major medical expense coverage.
- 21           (5) Disability income protection coverage.
- 22           (6) Accident only coverage.

23       (7) Specified disease or specified accident coverage.

24       (8) Other categories as the commissioner may prescribe.

25       (b) The principal benefits and coverage of the disability  
26 insurance policy, including coverage for acute care and subacute  
27 care if the policy is a health insurance policy, as defined in Section  
28 106.

29       (c) The exceptions, reductions, and limitations that apply to the  
30 policy.

31       (d) A summary, including a citation of the relevant contractual  
32 provisions, of the process used to authorize, modify, delay, or deny  
33 payments for services under the coverage provided by the policy  
34 including coverage for subacute care, transitional inpatient care,  
35 or care provided in skilled nursing facilities. This subdivision shall  
36 only apply to policies of health insurance as defined in Section  
37 106.

38       (e) The full premium cost of the policy.

1       (f) Any copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirements  
2 that may be incurred by the insured or his or her family in obtaining  
3 coverage under the policy.

4       (g) The terms under which the policy may be renewed by the  
5 insured, including any reservation by the insurer of any right to  
6 change premiums.

7       (h) A statement that the disclosure form is a summary only, and  
8 that the policy itself should be consulted to determine governing  
9 contractual provisions.

10      (i) For a health insurance policy, as defined in Section 106, all  
11 of the following:

12       (1) A notice on the first page of the disclosure form that  
13 conforms with all of the following conditions:

14       (A) (i) States that the form discloses the terms and conditions  
15 of coverage.

16       (ii) States, with respect to individual health insurance policies,  
17 small group health insurance policies, and any group health  
18 insurance policies, that the applicant has a right to view the  
19 disclosure form and policy prior to beginning coverage under the  
20 policy, and, if the policy does not accompany the disclosure form,  
21 the notice shall specify where the policy can be obtained prior to  
22 beginning coverage.

23       (B) Includes a statement that the disclosure and the policy should  
24 be read completely and carefully and that individuals with special  
25 health care needs should read carefully those sections that apply  
26 to them.

27       (C) Includes the insurer's telephone number or numbers that  
28 may be used by an applicant to receive additional information  
29 about the benefits of the policy, or states where those telephone  
30 number or numbers are located in the disclosure form.

31       (D) For individual health insurance policies and small group  
32 health insurance policies, states where a health policy benefits and  
33 coverage matrix is located.

34       (E) Is printed in type no smaller than that used for the remainder  
35 of the disclosure form and is displayed prominently on the page.

36       (2) A statement as to when benefits shall cease in the event of  
37 nonpayment of premium and the effect of nonpayment upon an  
38 insured who is hospitalized or undergoing treatment for an ongoing  
39 condition.

1       (3) To the extent that the policy or insurer permits a free choice  
2 of provider to its insureds, the statement shall disclose, consistent  
3 with Section 10123.12, the nature and extent of choice permitted  
4 and the financial liability that is, or may be, incurred by the insured,  
5 covered dependents, or a third party by reason of the exercise of  
6 that choice.

7       (4) For group health insurance policies, including small group  
8 health insurance policies, a summary of the terms and conditions  
9 under which insureds may remain in the policy in the event the  
10 group ceases to exist, the group policy is terminated, an individual  
11 insured leaves the group, or the insureds' eligibility status changes.

12     (5) If the policy utilizes arbitration to settle disputes, a statement  
13 of that fact. If the policy requires binding arbitration, a disclosure  
14 pursuant to Section 10123.19.

15     (6) A description of any limitations on the insured's choice of  
16 primary care physician, specialty care physician, or nonphysician  
17 health care practitioner, based on service area and limitations on  
18 the insured's choice of acute care hospital care, subacute or  
19 transitional inpatient care, or skilled nursing facility.

20     (7) Conditions and procedures for cancellation, rescission, or  
21 nonrenewal.

22     (8) A description as to how an insured may request continuity  
23 of care as required by Sections 10133.55 and 10133.56, and request  
24 a second opinion pursuant to Section 10123.68.

25     (9) Information concerning the right of an insured to request an  
26 independent medical review in accordance with Article 3.5  
27 (commencing with Section 10169) of Chapter 1.

28     (10) A notice as required by Section 791.04.

29     SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
30 Section 6 of Article XIIIIB of the California Constitution because  
31 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
32 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
33 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
34 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
35 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
36 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
37 Constitution.