

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1296

Introduced by Assembly Member Torrico

February 23, 2007

An act to amend Section 22853 of the Government Code, relating to public employee health benefits.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1296, as introduced, Torrico. Public employee health benefits.

The Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act requires the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System to approve health benefit plans for certain public employees and annuitants, and authorizes the board to contract with carriers offering health benefit plans.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to a provision of that act.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 22853 of the Government Code is
2 amended to read:
3 22853. (a) Each contract shall contain a detailed statement of
4 benefits offered and shall include maximums, limitations,
5 exclusions, and other definitions of benefits as the board deems
6 necessary or desirable.
7 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this part, a health benefit
8 plan or contract may not exclude any person on account of physical

1 condition, age, race, or *any* other status. Except as otherwise
2 provided by this part, transfer of enrollment to a health benefit
3 plan shall be open to all employees and annuitants in accordance
4 with Section 22841.

5 (c) A health benefit plan or contract shall offer to each employee
6 or annuitant whose enrollment in the plan is terminated other than
7 by cancellation of enrollment, voluntary separation from
8 employment, or dismissal from employment for cause, the option
9 to convert to an individual health ~~benefits~~ *benefit* policy, without
10 regard to health status, but within the time limit approved by the
11 board. An employee or annuitant that exercises this option shall
12 pay the full periodic charges of the individual policy according to
13 the terms and conditions prescribed by the carrier and approved
14 by the board.

15 (d) A health benefit plan or contract shall provide grievance
16 procedures to protect the rights of employees and annuitants.

17 (e) The board shall provide a sufficient number of health benefit
18 plans that provide chiropractic services so that every employee
19 and annuitant has a reasonable opportunity to enroll in a health
20 benefit plan that provides chiropractic services without prior
21 referral by a physician.