

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 780

Introduced by Senator Jackson

February 22, 2013

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 insurance.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 780, as amended, Jackson. ~~Disability insurance.~~ *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 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 distinguish between enrollees

of an assigned group provider and enrollees of an unassigned group provider for purposes of whether the 75-day filing is required to be submitted to the department. The bill would also require that the plan send a 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 would impose specified continued access to services and billing requirements on plans and providers for the enrollees of an unassigned provider group or an unassigned general acute care hospital. 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.

~~The bill would require a health insurer to notify the department at least 30 days prior to terminating a contract with a provider group or general acute care hospital to provide services at alternative rates of payment if the contract termination would result in a material change to the provider network, and would require the insurer to send written notice, at least 15 days prior to the termination date of the contract, to all insureds who have obtained services from the provider group or general acute hospital within the last 6 months, as specified.~~

This bill would require, among other things, a health insurer 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 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 and billing requirements on insurers and providers for insureds receiving health care services from a terminated provider group or general acute care hospital.

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: ~~no~~-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) At least 75 days prior to the termination date of~~
4 ~~its contract with a provider group or a general acute care hospital,~~
5 ~~the health care service plan shall submit an enrollee block transfer~~
6 ~~filing to the department that includes the written notice the plan~~
7 ~~proposes to send to affected enrollees. The plan may not send this~~
8 ~~notice to enrollees until the department has reviewed and approved~~
9 ~~its content. If the department does not respond within seven days~~
10 ~~of the date of its receipt of the filing, the notice shall be deemed~~
11 ~~approved.~~

12 ~~(b) At least 60 days prior to the termination date of a contract~~
13 ~~between a health care service plan and a provider group or a general~~
14 ~~acute care hospital, the plan shall send the written notice described~~
15 ~~in subdivision (a) by United States mail to enrollees who are~~
16 ~~assigned to the terminated provider group or hospital. A plan that~~
17 ~~is unable to comply with the timeframe because of exigent~~
18 ~~circumstances shall apply to the department for a waiver. The plan~~
19 ~~is excused from complying with this requirement only if its waiver~~
20 ~~application is granted by the department or the department does~~
21 ~~not respond within seven days of the date of its receipt of the~~
22 ~~waiver application. If the terminated provider is a hospital and the~~
23 ~~plan assigns enrollees to a provider group with exclusive admitting~~
24 ~~privileges to the hospital, the plan shall send the written notice to~~
25 ~~each enrollee who is a member of the provider group and who~~
26 ~~resides within a 15-mile radius of the terminated hospital. If the~~
27 ~~plan operates as a preferred provider organization or assigns~~
28 ~~members to a provider group with admitting privileges to hospitals~~
29 ~~in the same geographic area as the terminated hospital, the plan~~
30 ~~shall send the written notice to all enrollees who reside within a~~
31 ~~15-mile radius of the terminated hospital.~~

32 ~~(c) The health care service plan shall send enrollees of a~~
33 ~~preferred provider organization the written notice required by~~
34 ~~subdivision (b) only if the terminated provider is a general acute~~
35 ~~care hospital.~~

36 ~~1373.65. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following~~
37 ~~terms have the following meanings:~~

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

5 (2) “Assigned provider group” means a provider group to which
6 a health plan directs its enrollees to receive specialty physician
7 services or a provider group that includes primary care physicians
8 to which a health plan assigns its members.

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

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

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

15 (b) (1) At least 75 days prior to the termination date of its
16 contract with a provider group or a general acute care hospital,
17 the health care service plan shall submit a filing to the department
18 that includes the written notice the plan proposes to send to
19 enrollees. The plan shall not send this notice to enrollees until the
20 department has reviewed and approved the filing. If the department
21 does not respond within seven days of the date of the filing, the
22 filing shall be deemed approved.

23 (2) For the purposes of a termination with an assigned provider
24 group, the health care service plan shall submit a filing to the
25 department, as required by paragraph (1), if 2,000 or more
26 enrollees will be transferred or redirected by the plan from the
27 assigned provider group as a result of the termination of the
28 provider contract.

29 (3) For purposes of a termination with an unassigned provider
30 group, the health care service plan shall submit a filing to the
31 department, as required by paragraph (1), if 1,700 or more
32 enrollees were treated by the unassigned provider group within
33 the 12 months preceding the filing date specified in paragraph (1).

34 (4) The director may adopt by regulation a different filing
35 threshold from the threshold stated in paragraph (2), and in
36 consultation with the Department of Insurance, may adopt by
37 regulation a different filing threshold from the threshold stated in
38 paragraph (3).

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

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

8 (B) A plan that is unable to comply with the timeframe in
9 subparagraph (A) because of exigent circumstances shall apply
10 to the department for a waiver. The plan is excused from complying
11 with the 60-day notice requirement only if its waiver application
12 is granted by the department or the department does not respond
13 within seven days of the date of its receipt of the waiver
14 application.

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

18 (A) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within
19 one business day of the contract termination with an unassigned
20 provider group, to all of the following persons:

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

24 (ii) Any unassigned enrollee who has any health care services
25 scheduled with the terminated unassigned provider group after
26 the date of termination.

27 (B) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within
28 one business day of the contract termination with an unassigned
29 general acute care hospital, to all of the following persons:

30 (i) Any enrollee who has received health care services from the
31 terminated unassigned general acute care hospital within the 12
32 months preceding the date of termination.

33 (ii) Any enrollee who is assigned to a provider group with any
34 physicians who have exclusive admitting privileges to the
35 terminated unassigned general acute care hospital.

36 (iii) Any enrollee who has authorized health care services
37 scheduled at a terminating unassigned general acute care hospital
38 after the date of termination.

39 (C) Allow enrollees to continue to access services that were
40 authorized or scheduled at the terminated unassigned provider

1 group or unassigned general acute care hospital prior to the date
2 of termination. Those services shall be provided until completion
3 of the authorized or scheduled services for at least 60 days from
4 the date of the notice unless a longer period of time is required
5 pursuant to Section 1373.96. The amount of, and the requirement
6 for payment of, copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, and other
7 cost sharing components by an enrollee during the period of
8 completion of authorized or scheduled services with a terminated
9 unassigned provider group or unassigned general acute care
10 hospital pursuant to this subparagraph shall be the same that
11 would be paid by the enrollee when receiving care from a provider
12 currently contracting with or employed by the plan.

13 (D) Provide reimbursement for services provided under
14 subparagraph (C) either at a rate agreed upon by the health care
15 service plan and the terminated provider group or general acute
16 care hospital or the rate for those services as provided in the
17 terminating contract. In no event shall the provider bill the patient
18 for the cost of services beyond the copayment, deductible, or other
19 cost sharing components of what the enrollee would have been
20 responsible for if the provider group or general acute care hospital
21 was currently contracted with the health care service plan.

22 (d) Even if a filing is not required to be submitted by subdivision
23 (b), a health care service plan shall send enrollee notices as
24 required by subdivision (c). A health care service plan may only
25 send enrollee notices for which a template has been filed and
26 approved by the department pursuant to Section 1373.95.

27 ~~(d)~~

28 (e) If an individual provider terminates his or her contract or
29 employment with a provider group that contracts with a health
30 care service plan, the plan may require that the provider group
31 send the ~~notice notices~~ required by ~~subdivision (b)~~ subdivisions
32 (c) and (d).

33 ~~(e)~~

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

1 shall offer each affected enrollee the option to return to that
 2 provider. If an ~~affected~~ *assigned* enrollee does not exercise this
 3 option, the plan shall reassign the enrollee to another provider
 4 group or general acute care hospital.

5 (f)

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

10

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

19

20 ~~(g) For purposes of this section, “provider group” means a~~
 21 ~~medical group, independent practice association, or any other~~
 22 ~~similar organization.~~

23 SECTION 1.

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

26 10123.12. (a) Every health insurer, including those insurers
 27 that contract for alternative rates of payment pursuant to Section
 28 10133, and every self-insured employee welfare benefit plan that
 29 will affect the choice of physician, hospital, or other health care
 30 providers, shall include within its disclosure form and within its
 31 evidence or certificate of coverage a statement clearly describing
 32 how participation in the policy or plan may affect the choice of
 33 physician, hospital, or other health care providers, and describing
 34 the nature and extent of the financial liability that is, or that may
 35 be, incurred by the insured, enrollee, or covered dependents if care
 36 is furnished by a provider that does not have a contract with the
 37 insurer or plan to provide service at alternative rates of payment
 38 pursuant to Section 10133. The form shall clearly inform
 39 prospective insureds or plan enrollees that participation in the
 40 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. 2.~~

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

11 ~~10133.57. (a) At least 30 days prior to the termination date of~~
12 ~~a contract between a health insurer and a provider group or a~~
13 ~~general acute care hospital to provide services at alternative rates~~
14 ~~of payment pursuant to Section 10133, the insurer shall submit a~~
15 ~~written notice notifying the department of the termination if the~~
16 ~~termination of the contract would result in a material change to~~
17 ~~the insurer's provider network, as defined by the department by~~
18 ~~regulation. The insurer shall include with that notice the written~~
19 ~~notice the insurer proposes to send to affected insureds pursuant~~
20 ~~to subdivision (b).~~

21 ~~(b) At least 15 days prior to the termination date of a contract~~
22 ~~between a health insurer and a provider group or a general acute~~
23 ~~care hospital to provide services at alternative rates of payment~~
24 ~~pursuant to Section 10133, the insurer shall send the written notice~~
25 ~~described in subdivision (a) by United States mail to all insureds~~
26 ~~who have obtained services from the provider group or general~~
27 ~~acute care hospital within the preceding six months.~~

28 *10133.57. (a) For purposes of this section, "provider group"*
29 *means a medical group, independent practice association, or any*
30 *other similar organization.*

31 *(b) (1) At least 75 days prior to the termination date of its*
32 *contract with a provider group or a general acute care hospital*
33 *to provide services at alternative rates of payment pursuant to*
34 *Section 10133, the health insurer shall submit a filing to the*
35 *department that includes the written notice the insurer proposes*
36 *to send to the insureds. The insurer shall not send this notice to*
37 *the insureds until the department has reviewed and approved the*
38 *filing. If the department does not respond to the insured within*
39 *seven days of the date of the filing, the filing shall be deemed*
40 *approved.*

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

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

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

12 (1) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within
13 one business day of the contract termination with a provider group,
14 to all of the following persons:

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

18 (B) Any insured who has any health care services scheduled
19 with the terminated provider group after the date of termination.

20 (2) Send the written notice described in subdivision (b), within
21 one business day of the contract termination with a general acute
22 care hospital, to all of the following persons:

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

26 (B) Any insured who has authorized health care services
27 scheduled at a terminating general acute care hospital after the
28 date of termination.

29 (3) Allow insureds to continue to access services that were
30 authorized or scheduled at the terminated provider group or
31 general acute care hospital prior to the date of termination. Those
32 services shall be provided until completion of the authorized or
33 scheduled services for at least 60 days from the date of the notice
34 unless a longer period of time is required pursuant to Section
35 10133.56. The amount of, and the requirement for payment of,
36 copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, and other cost-sharing
37 components by an insured during the period of completion of
38 authorized or scheduled services with a terminated provider group
39 or general acute care hospital pursuant to this paragraph shall

1 *be the same that would be paid by the insured when receiving care*
 2 *from a provider currently contracting with the insurer.*

3 *(4) Provide reimbursement for services provided under*
 4 *paragraph (3) either at a rate agreed upon by the insurer and the*
 5 *terminated provider group or general acute care hospital or the*
 6 *rate for those services as provided in the terminating contract. In*
 7 *no event shall the provider bill the patient for the cost of services*
 8 *beyond the copayment, deductible, or other cost-sharing*
 9 *components of what the insured would have been responsible for*
 10 *if the provider group or general acute care hospital was currently*
 11 *contracted with the insurer.*

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.*

17 ~~(e)~~

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—and that termination is subject to the requirements of*
 21 *subdivision (b), the insurer may require that the provider group*
 22 *send the notice required by subdivision (b) notices required by*
 23 *subdivisions (c) and (d).*

24 ~~(f)~~

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

34 ~~(e) A health insurer or a provider group shall include in the~~
 35 ~~written notice sent pursuant to subdivision (b) or (c) the following~~
 36 ~~information in not less than 12-point type:~~

37 ~~(1) The name of the terminated provider group or general acute~~
 38 ~~care hospital, or in the case of a notice sent pursuant to subdivision~~
 39 ~~(e), the name of the terminated individual provider.~~

40 ~~(2) The date of the pending contract termination.~~

1 ~~(3) A description explaining how to access a list of contracted~~
2 ~~providers in the insured’s provider network.~~

3 ~~(4) A statement that the insured may contact the insurer’s~~
4 ~~customer service department to request completion of care for an~~
5 ~~ongoing course of treatment from a terminated provider and a~~
6 ~~telephone number for further explanation.~~

7 ~~(5) A statement informing the insured that he or she may be~~
8 ~~required to pay a larger portion of costs if the insured continues~~
9 ~~to use the terminated provider.~~

10 ~~(6) The following statement:~~

11 ~~(g) A health insurer or a provider group shall include in all~~
12 ~~written, printed, or electronic communications sent to an insured~~
13 ~~that concern the contract termination, the following statement in~~
14 ~~not less than 8-point type:~~

15
16 “If you have been receiving care from a health care provider,
17 you may have a right to keep your provider for a designated time
18 period. Please contact your insurer’s customer service department,
19 and if you have further questions, you are encouraged to contact
20 the Department of Insurance, which protects insurance consumers,
21 by telephone at its toll-free number, 800-927-HELP (4357), or at
22 a TDD number for the hearing impaired at 800-482-4833, or online
23 at www.insurance.ca.gov.”

24
25 ~~(f)~~

26 ~~(h) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with~~
27 ~~the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with~~
28 ~~Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government~~
29 ~~Code) that are necessary to implement the provisions of this~~
30 ~~section.~~

31 ~~SEC. 3.~~

32 ~~SEC. 4. Section 10601 of the Insurance Code is amended to~~
33 ~~read:~~

34 ~~10601. As used in this chapter:~~

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

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

39 ~~(c) “Reduction” means any provision in a policy that reduces~~
40 ~~the amount of a policy benefit to some amount or period less than~~

1 would be otherwise payable for medically authorized expenses or
2 services had the reduction not been used.

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

5 (e) “Presenting for examination or sale” means either (1)
6 publication and dissemination of any brochure, mailer,
7 advertisement, or form that constitutes a presentation of the
8 provisions of the policy and that provides a policy enrollment or
9 application form, or (2) consultations or discussions between
10 prospective beneficiaries or their contract agents and employees
11 or agents of disability insurers, when those consultations or
12 discussions include presentation of formal, organized information
13 about the policy that is intended to influence or inform the
14 prospective insured or beneficiary, such as brochures, summaries,
15 charts, slides, or other modes of information in lieu of or in addition
16 to the policy itself.

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

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

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

27 (i) “Small group health insurance policy” means a group health
28 insurance policy issued to a small employer, as defined in Section
29 10700, 10753, or 10755.

30 ~~SEC. 4.~~

31 *SEC. 5.* Section 10604 of the Insurance Code is amended to
32 read:

33 10604. The disclosure form shall include at least the following
34 information, in concise and specific terms, relative to the disability
35 insurance policy, together with additional information as the
36 commissioner may require in connection with the policy:

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

- 39 (1) Basic hospital expense coverage.
- 40 (2) Basic medical-surgical expense coverage.

- 1 (3) Hospital confinement indemnity coverage.
- 2 (4) Major medical expense coverage.
- 3 (5) Disability income protection coverage.
- 4 (6) Accident only coverage.
- 5 (7) Specified disease or specified accident coverage.
- 6 (8) Other categories as the commissioner may prescribe.
- 7 (b) The principal benefits and coverage of the disability
- 8 insurance policy, including coverage for acute care and subacute
- 9 care if the policy is a health insurance policy, as defined in Section
- 10 106.
- 11 (c) The exceptions, reductions, and limitations that apply to the
- 12 policy.
- 13 (d) A summary, including a citation of the relevant contractual
- 14 provisions, of the process used to authorize, modify, delay, or deny
- 15 payments for services under the coverage provided by the policy
- 16 including coverage for subacute care, transitional inpatient care,
- 17 or care provided in skilled nursing facilities. This subdivision shall
- 18 only apply to policies of health insurance as defined in Section
- 19 106.
- 20 (e) The full premium cost of the policy.
- 21 (f) Any copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirements
- 22 that may be incurred by the insured or his or her family in obtaining
- 23 coverage under the policy.
- 24 (g) The terms under which the policy may be renewed by the
- 25 insured, including any reservation by the insurer of any right to
- 26 change premiums.
- 27 (h) A statement that the disclosure form is a summary only, and
- 28 that the policy itself should be consulted to determine governing
- 29 contractual provisions.
- 30 (i) For a health insurance policy, as defined in Section 106, all
- 31 of the following:
- 32 (1) A notice on the first page of the disclosure form that
- 33 conforms with all of the following conditions:
- 34 (A) (i) States that the form discloses the terms and conditions
- 35 of coverage.
- 36 (ii) States, with respect to individual health insurance policies,
- 37 small group health insurance policies, and any group health
- 38 insurance policies, that the applicant has a right to view the
- 39 disclosure form and policy prior to beginning coverage under the
- 40 policy, and, if the policy does not accompany the disclosure form,

1 the notice shall specify where the policy can be obtained prior to
2 beginning coverage.

3 (B) Includes a statement that the disclosure and the policy should
4 be read completely and carefully and that individuals with special
5 health care needs should read carefully those sections that apply
6 to them.

7 (C) Includes the insurer’s telephone number or numbers that
8 may be used by an applicant to receive additional information
9 about the benefits of the policy, or states where those telephone
10 number or numbers are located in the disclosure form.

11 (D) For individual health insurance policies and small group
12 health insurance policies, states where a health policy benefits and
13 coverage matrix is located.

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

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

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

26 (4) For group health insurance policies, including small group
27 health insurance policies, a summary of the terms and conditions
28 under which insureds may remain in the policy in the event the
29 group ceases to exist, the group policy is terminated, an individual
30 insured leaves the group, or the insureds’ eligibility status changes.

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

34 (6) A description of any limitations on the insured’s choice of
35 primary care physician, specialty care physician, or nonphysician
36 health care practitioner, based on service area and limitations on
37 the insured’s choice of acute care hospital care, subacute or
38 transitional inpatient care, or skilled nursing facility.

39 (7) Conditions and procedures for cancellation, rescission, or
40 nonrenewal.

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

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

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

8 *SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*
9 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because*
10 *the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school*
11 *district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or*
12 *infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty*
13 *for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of*
14 *the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within*
15 *the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*
16 *Constitution.*