



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 216

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

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Assembly Bill 216 generally prohibits the Group Insurance Board (GIB) from covering abortions or abortion services in the health insurance policies for which it contracts on behalf of state employees, state annuitants, and certain local government employees. That provision of the bill is not affected by the amendment.

Assembly Bill 216 also creates an exemption from the current law requirement that all health insurance policies provide coverage of contraceptives and related services. Specifically, the bill specifies that an insurer is not required to provide this coverage in a policy issued to a religious employer, religious organization, or religious institution of higher education, if that employer, organization, or institution meets the criteria specified in the bill.¹

Assembly Amendment 1 provides that if a religious organization that is exempt from the requirement to provide contraceptive coverage in the health insurance plan it provides to employees so requests, the insurer must provide coverage, under the plan, of any contraceptive drug or device that is prescribed for a medically necessary purpose other than to prevent or terminate pregnancy.

Bill History

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Jacque on June 4, 2013. On June 5, 2013, the Assembly Committee on Health voted to recommend adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 3. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4.

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¹ The criteria which must be met are identical to those required under the proposed “religious accommodation” under federal law, which would create a similar exception to the mandatory contraceptive coverage provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. [<http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Fact-Sheets-and-FAQs/womens-preven-02012013.html>.]