



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 288
[2015 Assembly Bill 543]

Health Insurance Mandate Reports

2015 Wisconsin Act 288 relates to social and financial impact reports that are required when a bill contains a health insurance mandate. The Act has two main effects: revising the definition of a “health insurance mandate” that is subject to the reporting requirement, and revising the procedures that apply to the submission of the report.

DEFINITION

Under Wisconsin law, the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) is required to submit a report to the Legislature if a bill contains a “health insurance mandate.” As defined under prior law, a “health insurance mandate” is a law that requires an insurance policy, plan, or contract to do any of the following:

- Permit a person to obtain treatment or services from a particular type of health care provider.
- Provide coverage for treatment of a particular disease or condition.
- Provide coverage for a particular type of treatment or services.
- Provide coverage for particular persons.

The Act expands the definition of a “health insurance mandate” to also require a report if a proposal would require a particular benefit design or would impose any limits or conditions on a contract between an insurer and a health care provider.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

PROCEDURE

Under prior law, a deadline for submission of the report was not specified, and distribution of the report was at the discretion of the presiding officer of the house in which the bill was introduced.

The Act specifies that when a report is required, it must be submitted before any public hearing, or, if no hearing is held, before voting by any committee or either house of the Legislature. Additionally, the Act requires that the report, or a written statement from OCI explaining any reasons for not preparing a report, be attached to the bill in the same manner as a fiscal estimate.

Lastly, the Act specifies that, in addition to requiring a report when a bill contains a health insurance mandate, a report is required when an amendment contains a health insurance mandate.

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