



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 239
[2017 Senate Bill 319]

**Social and Financial Impact
Reports for Health Insurance
Mandates**

Wisconsin law requires the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) to prepare a report regarding the social and financial impact of any health insurance mandate contained in a bill or amendment, or to instead prepare a written statement explaining the reasons why it has not prepared such a report. 2017 Wisconsin Act 239 makes several changes relating to such reports.

First, for purposes of that reporting requirement, prior law defined “health insurance mandate” to mean a statute of the state that imposes one of several specified types of requirements on insurance policies, plans, or contracts; requires a particular benefit design under an insurance policy, plan, or contract; or imposes limits or conditions on a contract between an insurer and health care provider. The Act expands the definition of “health insurance mandate” to include statutes that impose conditions on cost sharing under an insurance policy, plan, or contract.

The Act also revises certain procedures regarding the submission of the reports and written statements submitted by OCI. Specifically, the Act removes a requirement that OCI’s report or written statement must be distributed before a public hearing is held on the bill in a legislative standing committee. Instead, the Act requires OCI to submit a report or written statement within 10 working days after receiving the copy of a bill or amendment to which the reporting requirement applies. In addition, the Act specifies that OCI is not required to prepare a report or written statement for an amendment if the amendment has failed adoption or failed to be reported out of committee by the end of the next business day after OCI receives a copy of the amendment. In addition, the Act specifies that no bill may receive a hearing or be voted on by either house or a standing committee, and no amendment may be adopted by either house or recommended by a standing committee, before a required report or written statement is distributed by the Chief Clerk in the relevant body.

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>.

Finally, the Act requires OCI to submit the reports and written statements to the Chief Clerk of the house of the Legislature in which the bill or amendment is introduced or offered, instead of the presiding officer of such body under prior law. After receiving the report or written statement, the Act requires the relevant Chief Clerk to distribute the report or written statement and print it as an appendix to the bill.

Effective date: April 5, 2018

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