



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

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TJD:all

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,  
TO SENATE BILL 770**

February 13, 2018 - Offered by JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

1     **AN ACT** *to repeal* subchapter VI (title) of chapter 601 [precedes 601.93]; *to*  
2           *amend* 601.45 (1); and *to create* 16.5285, 20.145 (5), 49.45 (2p), subchapter VII  
3           (title) of chapter 601 [precedes 601.80], 601.80, 601.83, 601.85 and subchapter  
4           VIII (title) of chapter 601 [precedes 601.93] of the statutes; **relating to:**  
5           Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan, reinsurance of health carriers,  
6           reallocating savings from health insurer fee, providing an exemption from  
7           emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making  
8           appropriations.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This substitute amendment creates the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan (WIHSP), which is a state-based reinsurance program for health carriers, subject to the approval of a waiver of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. WIHSP makes a reinsurance payment to a health carrier if the claims for an individual who is enrolled in a health benefit plan of the carrier exceed a threshold amount, known as the attachment point, in a benefit year. The commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance in this state administers WIHSP. After

consulting with an actuarial firm, the commissioner sets the payment parameters for the reinsurance payment as specified under the substitute amendment. In addition to the attachment point, the other payment parameters are the reinsurance cap, which is the maximum amount of claims eligible for a reinsurance payment, and the coinsurance rate, which is the percent of the claim amount eligible for a reinsurance payment. The commissioner must design and adjust the payment parameters with the goal to stabilize or reduce premium rates in the individual health insurance market, increase participation by health carriers in the individual market, improve access to health care providers and services for individuals purchasing individual health insurance coverage, mitigate the impact high-risk individuals have on premium rates in the individual market, and take into account any federal funding and the total amount of funding available for the plan. If the funding amounts available for expenditure are not anticipated to fully fund the reinsurance payments as of July 1 of the year before the applicable benefit year, the commissioner must adjust the payment parameters and then allow the health carrier to adjust its filing of insurance premium rates. If funding is not available to make all reinsurance payments in a benefit year, reinsurance payments will be made proportional to the health carrier's share of aggregate individual health plan claims costs eligible for reinsurance payments, as determined by the commissioner. Under the substitute amendment, health carriers are required to calculate the rates the carrier would have charged for a benefit year if WIHSP was not established and submit those rates as part of its rate filing.

The commissioner must calculate a reinsurance payment to be made to a health carrier as specified in the substitute amendment. If the claims cost amounts for an individual enrollee of the health benefit plan do not exceed the attachment point threshold, the commissioner may not make a reinsurance payment. If the costs exceed the attachment point, then the commissioner makes a reinsurance payment that is the coinsurance rate multiplied by whichever of the following is less 1) the claims cost minus the attachment point or 2) the reinsurance cap minus the attachment point. When a health carrier meets criteria set in the substitute amendment and any requirements set by the commissioner, the carrier may request a reinsurance payment. A health carrier, however, is not eligible to receive a reinsurance payment unless the carrier agrees not to bring a lawsuit against the commissioner or a state agency or employee over any delay in reinsurance payments or reduction in the payments for insufficient funding. The commissioner must notify the carrier of any reinsurance payments for the benefit year no later than June 30 of the year following that benefit year.

The substitute amendment requires health carriers to provide access to certain data. The commissioner may also have a health carrier audited to assess the carrier's compliance with requirements in this substitute amendment. The commissioner is required to keep an accounting of certain payments and moneys available for payments as specified in the substitute amendment.

The substitute amendment allows the commissioner to submit one or more requests for a state innovation waiver under the federal Affordable Care Act, known as a "1332 waiver," to implement WIHSP. The substitute amendment specifies the

2019 benefit year payment parameters to be used for submitting the waiver but allows the commissioner to adjust the payment parameters to secure federal approval of the waiver request. If the federal government does not approve WIHSP as submitted or a substantially similar plan, the commissioner may not implement WIHSP. Current federal law allows a state to apply for a waiver of certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act, and the state is then eligible to receive moneys from the federal government, known as pass-through funding, that the federal government would have paid in premium tax credits, cost-sharing reductions, or small business credits if the waiver had not been approved.

Under the substitute amendment, if a fee imposed under the Affordable Care Act is no longer applicable to insurers participating in the state's group health insurance program or the Medical Assistance program, the secretary of administration must calculate the expected savings to state agencies from avoiding the fee. The secretary must then adjust appropriations and transfer, in the biennium in which the savings calculation is made, to the general fund the program revenue based on the savings calculated, subject to limitations in the substitute amendment, or adjust state agency employer contributions for state employee fringe benefit costs in the biennium following the biennium in which the savings is calculated or both.

The substitute amendment prohibits the Department of Health Services from expanding the Medical Assistance program under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act unless legislation is in effect allowing the expansion.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

1           **SECTION 1.** 16.5285 of the statutes is created to read:

2           **16.5285 Health insurer fee savings.** (1) In this section, "Affordable Care  
3 Act" has the meaning given in s. 601.80 (1).

4           (2) If the annual fee imposed under section 9010 of the Affordable Care Act is  
5 no longer applicable to insurers participating in the state's group health insurance  
6 program under s. 40.51 (6) or the Medical Assistance program under subch. IV of ch.  
7 49 and if the state budget allocated an amount to expend on the annual insurer fee,  
8 the secretary shall calculate the expected state agency savings related to the  
9 avoidance of the fee.

10           (3) Based on the savings calculated under sub. (2), the secretary shall do one  
11 or more of the following:

1           (a) In the fiscal biennium in which the savings are calculated, reduce the  
2 estimated general purpose revenue and program revenue expenditures, excluding  
3 tuition and fee moneys from the University of Wisconsin System, for “Compensation  
4 Reserves” shown in the schedule under s. 20.005 (1) by an amount equal to the  
5 savings calculated under sub. (2) to the state’s group health insurance program;  
6 subject to sub. (4), transfer to the general fund the related available balances in  
7 program revenue appropriation accounts related to the savings under sub. (2) to the  
8 state’s group health insurance program in an amount equal to the calculated  
9 program revenue saved under sub. (2) to the state’s group health insurance program;  
10 and, if the secretary of health services finds that a reduction would not result in a  
11 deficit to the Medical Assistance program, reduce the general purpose revenue  
12 expenditure amounts for the Medical Assistance program under s. 20.435 (4) (b) by  
13 an amount that is no greater than the amount of the savings calculated under sub.  
14 (2) to the Medical Assistance program.

15           (b) In the fiscal biennium following the fiscal biennium in which the savings  
16 are calculated, adjust state agency employer contributions for state employee fringe  
17 benefit costs.

18           (4) If the secretary intends to transfer to the general fund the related available  
19 balances in program revenue appropriation accounts related to the savings under  
20 sub. (2) to the state’s group health insurance program, the secretary shall submit a  
21 request to the joint committee on finance stating the amounts the secretary  
22 calculates would be transferred from each program revenue appropriation account.  
23 If, within 14 days after the date of the secretary’s request, the cochairpersons of the  
24 committee do not notify the department that the committee has scheduled a meeting  
25 to review the request, the transfers submitted are considered approved. If the

1       cochairpersons notify the department within 14 days after the date of the secretary's  
2       request that the committee has scheduled a meeting to review the request, a transfer  
3       may be made only upon approval of the committee.

4       **SECTION 2.** 20.145 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

5       20.145 (5) WISCONSIN HEALTHCARE STABILITY PLAN. (b) *Reinsurance plan; state*  
6       *subsidy.* A sum sufficient for the state subsidy of reinsurance payments for the  
7       reinsurance program under subch. VII of ch. 601.

8       (m) *Federal funds; reinsurance plan.* All moneys received from the federal  
9       government for reinsurance for the purposes for which received.

10       **SECTION 3.** 49.45 (2p) of the statutes is created to read:

11       49.45 (2p) APPROVAL OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CHANGES. After the  
12       effective date of this subsection .... [LRB inserts date], the department may not  
13       expand eligibility under section 2001 (a) (1) (C) of the Patient Protection and  
14       Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, for the Medical Assistance program under this  
15       subchapter unless the state legislature has passed legislation to allow the expansion  
16       and that legislation is in effect.

17       **SECTION 4.** 601.45 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

18       601.45 (1) COSTS TO BE PAID BY EXAMINEES. The reasonable costs of examinations  
19       and audits under ss. 601.43 ~~and~~, 601.44, and 601.83 (5) (f) shall be paid by examinees  
20       except as provided in sub. (4), either on the basis of a system of billing for actual  
21       salaries and expenses of examiners and other apportionable expenses, including  
22       office overhead, or by a system of regular annual billings to cover the costs relating  
23       to a group of companies, or a combination of such systems, as the commissioner may  
24       by rule prescribe. Additional funding, if any, shall be governed by s. 601.32. The

1 commissioner shall schedule annual hearings under s. 601.41 (5) to review current  
2 problems in the area of examinations.

3 **SECTION 5.** Subchapter VII (title) of chapter 601 [precedes 601.80] of the  
4 statutes is created to read:

5 **CHAPTER 601**

6 **SUBCHAPTER VII**

7 **HEALTHCARE STABILITY PLAN**

8 **SECTION 6.** 601.80 of the statutes is created to read:

9 **601.80 Definitions; healthcare stability plan.** In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Affordable Care Act" means the federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
11 Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended by the federal Health Care and Education  
12 Reconciliation Act of 2010, P.L. 111-152, and any amendments to or regulations or  
13 guidance issued under those acts.

14 (2) "Attachment point" means the amount set under s. 601.83 (2) for the  
15 healthcare stability plan that is the threshold amount for claims costs incurred by  
16 an eligible health carrier for an enrolled individual's covered benefits in a benefit  
17 year, beyond which the claims costs are eligible for reinsurance payments.

18 (3) "Benefit year" means the calendar year for which an eligible health carrier  
19 provides coverage through an individual health plan.

20 (4) "Coinsurance rate" means the rate set under s. 601.83 (2) for the healthcare  
21 stability plan that is the rate at which the commissioner will reimburse an eligible  
22 health carrier for claims incurred for an enrolled individual's covered benefits in a  
23 benefit year above the attachment point and below the reinsurance cap.

1           (5) “Eligible health carrier” means an insurer, as defined in s. 632.745 (15) that  
2 offers an individual health plan and incurs claims costs for an enrolled individual’s  
3 covered benefits in the applicable benefit year.

4           (6) “Grandfathered plan” means a health plan in which an individual was  
5 enrolled on March 23, 2010, for as long as it maintains that status in accordance with  
6 the Affordable Care Act.

7           (7) “Health benefit plan” has the meaning given in s. 632.745 (11).

8           (8) “Healthcare stability plan” means the state-based reinsurance program  
9 known as the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan administered under s. 601.83 (1).

10          (9) “Individual health plan” means a health benefit plan that is not a group  
11 health plan, as defined in s. 632.745 (10), or a grandfathered plan.

12          (10) “Payment parameters” means the attachment point, reinsurance cap, and  
13 coinsurance rate for the healthcare stability plan.

14          (12) “Reinsurance cap” means the threshold amount set under s. 601.83 (2) for  
15 the healthcare stability plan for claims costs incurred by an eligible health carrier  
16 for an enrolled individual’s covered benefits, after which the claims costs for benefits  
17 are no longer eligible for reinsurance payments.

18          (13) “Reinsurance payment” means an amount paid by the commissioner to an  
19 eligible health carrier under the healthcare stability plan.

20          **SECTION 7.** 601.83 of the statutes is created to read:

21          **601.83 Healthcare stability plan; administration.** (1) PLAN ESTABLISHED;  
22 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION. (a) Subject to par. (b), the commissioner shall administer  
23 a state-based reinsurance program known as the healthcare stability plan.

24          (b) 1. The commissioner may submit a request to the federal department of  
25 health and human services for one or more waivers under 42 USC 18052 to

1 implement the healthcare stability plan for benefit years beginning January 1, 2019.  
2 The commissioner may adjust the payment parameters under sub. (2) to the extent  
3 necessary to secure federal approval of the waiver request under this paragraph.

4 2. If the federal department of health and human services does not approve the  
5 healthcare stability plan in the waiver request submitted under subd. 1. or a  
6 substantially similar healthcare stability plan, the commissioner may not  
7 implement the healthcare stability plan.

8 (c) If the federal government enacts into law Senate Bill 1835 of the 115th  
9 Congress or a similar bill providing support to states to establish reinsurance  
10 programs, the commissioner shall seek, if necessary, and receive federal moneys for  
11 the purpose of reinsurance programs that result from that enacted law to expend for  
12 the purposes of this subchapter.

13 (d) In accordance with sub. (5) (c), the commissioner shall collect the data from  
14 an eligible health carrier as necessary to determine reinsurance payments.

15 (e) Beginning on a date determined by the commissioner, the commissioner  
16 shall require each eligible health carrier to calculate the rates the eligible health  
17 carrier would have charged for a benefit year if the healthcare stability plan had not  
18 been established and submit the calculated rates as part of its rate filing submitted  
19 to the commissioner. The commissioner shall consider the calculated rate  
20 information provided under this paragraph as part of the rate filing review.

21 (f) 1. For each applicable benefit year, the commissioner shall notify eligible  
22 health carriers of reinsurance payments to be made for the applicable benefit year  
23 no later than June 30 of the calendar year following the applicable benefit year.



1           2. Quarterly during the applicable benefit year, the commissioner shall provide  
2 each eligible health carrier with the calculation of total amounts of reinsurance  
3 payment requests.

4           3. By August 15 of the calendar year following the applicable benefit year, the  
5 commissioner shall disburse all applicable reinsurance payments to an eligible  
6 health carrier.

7           (g) The commissioner may promulgate any rules necessary to implement the  
8 healthcare stability plan under this section, except that any rules promulgated  
9 under this paragraph shall seek to maximize federal funding for the healthcare  
10 stability plan. The commissioner may promulgate rules necessary to implement this  
11 section as emergency rules under s. 227.24. Notwithstanding s. 227.24 (1) (a) and  
12 (3), the commissioner is not required to provide evidence that promulgating a rule  
13 under this paragraph as an emergency rule is necessary for the preservation of the  
14 public peace, health, safety, or welfare and is not required to provide a finding of  
15 emergency for a rule promulgated under this paragraph.

16           (h) In 2019 and in each subsequent year, the commissioner may expend no more  
17 than \$200,000,000 from all revenue sources for the healthcare stability plan under  
18 this section, unless the joint committee on finance under s. 13.10 has increased this  
19 amount upon request by the commissioner.

20           **(2) PAYMENT PARAMETERS.** The commissioner, after consulting with an actuarial  
21 firm, shall design and adjust payment parameters with the goal to do all of the  
22 following:

23           (a) Stabilize or reduce premium rates in the individual market.

24           (b) Increase participation by health carriers in the individual market.

1 (c) Improve access to health care providers and services for individuals  
2 purchasing coverage in the individual market.

3 (d) Mitigate the impact high-risk individuals have on premium rates in the  
4 individual market.

5 (e) Take into account any federal funding available for the plan.

6 (f) Take into account the total amount available to fund the plan.

7 **(3) OPERATION.** (a) The commissioner shall set the payment parameters as  
8 described under sub. (2) by no later than March 30 of the calendar year before the  
9 applicable benefit year or, if the commissioner specifies a different date by rule, the  
10 date specified by the commissioner by rule.

11 (b) If the amount available for expenditure for the healthcare stability plan is  
12 not anticipated to be adequate to fully fund the payment parameters set under par.

13 (a) as of July 1 of the calendar year before the applicable benefit year, the  
14 commissioner shall adjust the payment parameters in accordance within the moneys  
15 available to expend for the healthcare stability plan. The commissioner shall allow  
16 an eligible health carrier to revise its rate filing based on the final payment  
17 parameters for the applicable benefit year.

18 (c) If funding is not available to make all reinsurance payments to eligible  
19 health carriers in a benefit year, the commissioner shall make reinsurance payments  
20 in proportion to the eligible health carrier's share of aggregate individual health plan  
21 claims costs eligible for reinsurance payments during the given benefit year, as  
22 determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall notify eligible health  
23 carriers if there are insufficient funds available to make reinsurance payments in  
24 full and the estimated amount of payment as soon as practicable after the  
25 commissioner becomes aware of the insufficiency.

1           **(4) REINSURANCE PAYMENT CALCULATION.** (a) The commissioner shall calculate  
2 a reinsurance payment with respect to each eligible health carrier's incurred claims  
3 costs for an enrolled individual's covered benefits in the applicable benefit year. If  
4 the claims costs for an enrolled individual do not exceed the attachment point set  
5 under sub. (2), the commissioner may not make a reinsurance payment with respect  
6 to that enrollee. If the claims costs for an enrolled individual exceed the attachment  
7 point, subject to par. (b), the commissioner shall make a reinsurance payment that  
8 is calculated as the product of the coinsurance rate and whichever of the following  
9 is less:

10           1. The claims costs minus the attachment point.

11           2. The reinsurance cap minus the attachment point.

12           (b) The commissioner shall ensure that any reinsurance payment made to an  
13 eligible health carrier does not exceed the total amount paid by the eligible health  
14 carrier for any claim. For purposes of this paragraph, the total amount paid of a  
15 claim is the amount paid by the eligible health carrier based upon the allowed  
16 amount less any deductible, coinsurance, or copayment paid by another person as of  
17 the time the data are submitted or made accessible under sub. (5) (c).

18           **(5) REINSURANCE PAYMENT REQUESTS.** (a) An eligible health carrier may request  
19 reinsurance payments from the commissioner when the eligible health carrier meets  
20 the requirements of this subsection and sub. (4).

21           (b) An eligible health carrier shall make any requests for a reinsurance  
22 payment in accordance with any requirements established by the commissioner.

23           (c) Each eligible health carrier shall provide the commissioner with access to  
24 the data within the dedicated data environment established by the eligible health  
25 carrier under the federal risk adjustment program under 42 USC 18063. Each

1 eligible health carrier shall submit to the commissioner attesting to compliance with  
2 the dedicated data environments, data requirements, establishment and usage of  
3 masked enrollee identification numbers, and data submission deadlines.

4 (d) Each eligible health carrier shall provide the access under par. (c) for each  
5 applicable benefit year by April 30 of the calendar year following the end of the  
6 applicable benefit year.

7 (e) Each eligible health carrier shall maintain for at least 6 years documents  
8 and records, by paper, electronic, or other media, sufficient to substantiate a request  
9 for a reinsurance payment made under this section. An eligible health carrier shall  
10 make the documents and records available to the commissioner, upon request, for  
11 purposes of verification, investigation, audit, or other review of a reinsurance  
12 payment request.

13 (f) The commissioner may have an eligible health carrier audited to assess the  
14 health carrier's compliance with the requirements of this section. The eligible health  
15 carrier shall ensure that its contractors, subcontractors, or agents cooperate with  
16 any audit under this paragraph. Within 30 days of receiving notice that an audit  
17 results in a proposed finding of material weakness or significant deficiency with  
18 respect to compliance with any requirement of this section, the eligible health carrier  
19 may provide a response to the proposed finding. Within 60 days of the issuance of  
20 a final audit report that includes a finding of material weakness or significant  
21 deficiency, the eligible health carrier shall do all of the following:

22 1. Provide a written corrective action plan to the commissioner for approval.

23 2. Implement the corrective action plan under subd. 1. as approved by the  
24 commissioner.

1           3. Provide the commissioner with written documentation of the corrective  
2 action after implementation.

3           (g) The commissioner may recover from an eligible health carrier any  
4 overpayment of reinsurance payments as determined under the audit under par. (f).

5           (h) A health carrier is not eligible to receive a reinsurance payment unless the  
6 health carrier agrees not to bring a lawsuit against the commissioner or a state  
7 agency or employee over any delay in reinsurance payments or any reduction in  
8 reinsurance payments in accordance with sub. (3) (c).

9           **(6) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.** Information submitted by an eligible health carrier  
10 or obtained by the commissioner for purposes of the healthcare stability plan shall  
11 be used only for purposes of this subchapter and is proprietary and confidential  
12 under s. 601.465.

13           **SECTION 8.** 601.85 of the statutes is created to read:

14           **601.85 Accounting, reports, and audits. (1) ACCOUNTING.** The  
15 commissioner shall keep an accounting for each benefit year of all of the following:

16           (a) Funds appropriated for reinsurance payments and administrative and  
17 operational expenses.

18           (b) Requests for reinsurance payments received from eligible health carriers.

19           (c) Reinsurance payments made to eligible health carriers.

20           (d) Administrative and operational expenses incurred for the healthcare  
21 stability plan.

22           **(2) REPORTS.** By November 1 of the calendar year following the applicable  
23 benefit year or by 60 days following the final disbursement of reinsurance payments  
24 for the applicable benefit year, whichever is later, the commissioner shall make

1 available to the public a report summarizing the healthcare stability plan's  
2 operations for each benefit year by posting the summary on the office's Internet site.

3 **(3) LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR.** The healthcare stability plan is subject to audit by the  
4 legislative audit bureau. The commissioner shall ensure that its contractors,  
5 subcontractors, or agents cooperate with any audit of the healthcare stability plan  
6 performed by the legislative audit bureau.

7 **(4) REQUIRED RECOMMENDATION REPORT.** By December 31, 2018, the  
8 commissioner shall submit to the governor recommendations on implementing a  
9 waiver under s. 601.83 (1) (b), any possible additional waivers to be requested, and  
10 any other options to stabilize the individual health care market in this state. In  
11 developing the recommendations, the commissioner shall consider and include in the  
12 report the impacts of creating a high-risk pool or an invisible high-risk pool; funding  
13 of consumer health savings accounts; expanding consumer plan choices, including  
14 catastrophic plans or coverage and new low-cost plan options; and implementing  
15 any other approach that will lower consumer costs, stabilize the insurance market,  
16 or expand the availability of private insurance coverage.

17 **SECTION 9.** Subchapter VIII (title) of chapter 601 [precedes 601.93] of the  
18 statutes is created to read:

19 **CHAPTER 601**

20 **SUBCHAPTER VIII**

21 **FIRE DEPARTMENT DUES**

22 **SECTION 10.** Subchapter VI (title) of chapter 601 [precedes 601.93] of the  
23 statutes is repealed.

24 **SECTION 11. Nonstatutory provisions.**

