ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 123–ASSEMBLYMEN DE BRAGA, CHOWNING, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, ANDERSON, BERMAN, CLABORN, COLLINS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, KOIVISTO, LEE, MANENDO, MORTENSON, OCEGUERA, PARKS, PARNELL AND SMITH

FEBRUARY 13, 2001

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to health insurance. (BDR 57-603)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.

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12 13 Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health insurance; requiring health insurers to provide certain information concerning payment for health care services to an insured or provider of health care upon request; requiring health insurers to reimburse certain specialists with whom they do not have a contract for health care services provided to certain insureds; requiring the board of the public employees' benefits program to comply with certain provisions concerning health insurance applicable to other insurers with regard to health insurance it provides through a plan of self-insurance; requiring the board to notify certain persons of a proposed change in the premium charged for or coverage of health insurance provided by the public employees' benefits program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 679B.130 is hereby amended to read as follows: 679B.130 1. The commissioner may adopt reasonable regulations for the administration of any provision of this code, [or] chapters 616A to 617, inclusive, of NRS [.] and section 23 of this act.

2. A person who willfully violates any regulation of the commissioner

is subject to such suspension or revocation of a certificate of authority or license, or administrative fine in lieu of such suspension or revocation, as may be applicable under this code or chapter 616A, 616B, 616C, 616D or 617 of NRS for violation of the provision to which the regulation relates. No penalty applies to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any such regulation, notwithstanding that the regulation may, after the act or omission, be amended, rescinded or determined by a judicial or other authority to be invalid for any reason.



Sec. 2. Chapter 689A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 3 and 4 of this act.

- Sec. 3. An insurer shall, at the request of an insured or provider of health care with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services, provide as soon as practicable to the insured or provider of health care:
- 1. An estimate of the rate at which the provider of health care will be reimbursed for providing a health care service to the insured and the amount of money for which the insured will be responsible for the health care service; or
- 2. If the insurer pays claims on the basis of fees for health care services that are usual and customary, an estimate of the usual and customary fee for providing a health care service to the insured and the percentage of that fee for which the insured will be responsible, including, without limitation, the percentage of the fee for which the insured will be responsible if the health care service provided to the insured is provided by a provider of health care who does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with the insurer.
- Sec. 4. 1. If an insured requires health care services that may be provided by a specialist and his insurer does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with such a specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, the insurer shall reimburse:
- (a) A specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured; or
- (b) A specialist whose place of business is located more than 50 miles from the residence of the insured if there is no specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, for specialized health care services that are provided to the insured by that specialist.
- 2. An insurer shall reimburse a specialist pursuant to the provisions of this section in an amount that is not less than the amount the insurer would be required to reimburse a specialist with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services.
- **Sec. 5.** NRS 689A.0423 is hereby amended to read as follows: 689A.0423 1. A policy of health insurance must provide coverage
- 689A.0423 1. A policy of health insurance must provide coverage for:
- (a) Enteral formulas for use at home that are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of inherited metabolic diseases characterized by deficient metabolism, or malabsorption originating from congenital defects or defects arising shortly after birth, of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat; and
- (b) [At least \$2,500 per year for special] Special food products which are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of a person described in paragraph (a).
 - 2. The coverage required by subsection 1 must be [provided]:
- (a) **Provided** whether or not the condition existed when the policy was purchased ; and



- (b) Subject to the same deductible, copayment, coinsurance, waiting period and any other conditions for coverage that are required under the policy.
- 3. A policy subject to the provisions of this chapter that is delivered, issued for delivery or renewed on or after [January 1, 1998,] October 1, 2001, has the legal effect of including the coverage required by this section, and any provision of the policy or the renewal which is in conflict with this section is void.
 - 4. As used in this section:

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- (a) "Inherited metabolic disease" means a disease caused by an inherited abnormality of the body chemistry of a person.
- (b) "Special food product" means a food product that is specially formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving and is intended to be consumed under the direction of a physician for the dietary treatment of an inherited metabolic disease. The term does not include a food that is naturally low in protein.
- **Sec. 6.** Chapter 689B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 7 and 8 of this act.
- Sec. 7. An insurer that issues a policy of group health insurance shall, at the request of an insured or provider of health care with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services, provide as soon as practicable to the insured or provider of health care:
- 1. An estimate of the rate at which the provider of health care will be reimbursed for providing a health care service to the insured and the amount of money for which the insured will be responsible for the health care service; or
- 2. If the insurer pays claims on the basis of fees for health care services that are usual and customary, an estimate of the usual and customary fee for providing a health care service to the insured and the percentage of that fee for which the insured will be responsible, including, without limitation, the percentage of the fee for which the insured will be responsible if the health care service provided to the insured is provided by a provider of health care who does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with the insurer.
- Sec. 8. 1. If an insured requires health care services that may be provided by a specialist and his insurer that issues a policy of group health insurance does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with such a specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, the insurer shall reimburse:
- (a) A specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured; or
- (b) A specialist whose place of business is located more than 50 miles from the residence of the insured if there is no specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, for specialized health care services that are provided to the insured by that specialist.
- 2. An insurer that issues a policy of group health insurance shall reimburse a specialist pursuant to the provisions of this section in an



amount that is not less than the amount the insurer would be required to reimburse a specialist with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services.

- **Sec. 9.** NRS 689B.0353 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 689B.0353 1. A policy of group health insurance must provide coverage for:
- (a) Enteral formulas for use at home that are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of inherited metabolic diseases characterized by deficient metabolism, or malabsorption originating from congenital defects or defects arising shortly after birth, of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat; and
- (b) [At least \$2,500 per year for special] Special food products which are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of a person described in paragraph (a).
 - 2. The coverage required by subsection 1 must be [provided]:
- (a) **Provided** whether or not the condition existed when the policy was purchased [...]; and
- (b) Subject to the same deductible, copayment, coinsurance, waiting period and any other conditions for coverage that are required under the policy.
- 3. A policy subject to the provisions of this chapter that is delivered, issued for delivery or renewed on or after [January 1, 1998,] October 1, 2001, has the legal effect of including the coverage required by this section, and any provision of the policy or the renewal which is in conflict with this section is void.
- 4. As used in this section:

- (a) "Inherited metabolic disease" means a disease caused by an inherited abnormality of the body chemistry of a person.
- (b) "Special food product" means a food product that is specially formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving and is intended to be consumed under the direction of a physician for the dietary treatment of an inherited metabolic disease. The term does not include a food that is naturally low in protein.
- **Sec. 10.** Chapter 695A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 11 and 12 of this act.
- Sec. 11. A society shall, at the request of an insured or provider of health care with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services, provide as soon as practicable to the insured or provider of health care:
- 1. An estimate of the rate at which the provider of health care will be reimbursed for providing a health care service to the insured and the amount of money for which the insured will be responsible for the health care service; or
- 2. If the society pays claims on the basis of fees for health care services that are usual and customary, an estimate of the usual and customary fee for providing a health care service to the insured and the percentage of that fee for which the insured will be responsible, including, without limitation, the percentage of the fee for which the insured will be responsible if the health care service provided to the



insured is provided by a provider of health care who does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with the society.

- Sec. 12. 1. If an insured requires health care services that may be provided by a specialist and his society does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with such a specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, the society shall reimburse:
- (a) A specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured; or
- (b) A specialist whose place of business is located more than 50 miles from the residence of the insured if there is no specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, for specialized health care services that are provided to the insured by that specialist.
- 2. A society shall reimburse a specialist pursuant to the provisions of this section in an amount that is not less than the amount the society would be required to reimburse a specialist with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services.
- **Sec. 13.** Chapter 695B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 14 and 15 of this act.
- Sec. 14. A corporation that is subject to the provisions of this chapter shall, at the request of an insured or provider of health care with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services, provide as soon as practicable to the insured or provider of health care:
- 1. An estimate of the rate at which the provider of health care will be reimbursed for providing a health care service to the insured and the amount of money for which the insured will be responsible for the health care service; or
- 2. If the corporation pays claims on the basis of fees for health care services that are usual and customary, an estimate of the usual and customary fee for providing a health care service to the insured and the percentage of that fee for which the insured will be responsible, including, without limitation, the percentage of the fee for which the insured will be responsible if the health care service provided to the insured is provided by a provider of health care who does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with the corporation.
- Sec. 15. 1. If an insured requires health care services that may be provided by a specialist and his corporation that is subject to the provisions of this chapter, does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with such a specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured, the corporation shall reimburse:
- (a) A specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured; or
- (b) A specialist whose place of business is located more than 50 miles from the residence of the insured if there is no specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the insured,



for specialized health care services that are provided to the insured by that specialist.

- 2. A corporation that is subject to the provisions of this chapter shall reimburse a specialist pursuant to the provisions of this section in an amount that is not less than the amount the corporation would be required to reimburse a specialist with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 695B.1923 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 695B.1923 1. A contract for hospital or medical service must provide coverage for:
- (a) Enteral formulas for use at home that are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of inherited metabolic diseases characterized by deficient metabolism, or malabsorption originating from congenital defects or defects arising shortly after birth, of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat; and
- (b) [At least \$2,500 per year for special] Special food products which are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of a person described in paragraph (a).
 - 2. The coverage required by subsection 1 must be [provided]:
- (a) **Provided** whether or not the condition existed when the contract was purchased [...]; and
- (b) Subject to the same deductible, copayment, coinsurance, waiting period and any other conditions for coverage that are required under the contract.
- 3. A contract subject to the provisions of this chapter that is delivered, issued for delivery or renewed on or after [January 1, 1998,] October 1, 2001, has the legal effect of including the coverage required by this section, and any provision of the contract or the renewal which is in conflict with this section is void.
 - 4. As used in this section:

- (a) "Inherited metabolic disease" means a disease caused by an inherited abnormality of the body chemistry of a person.
- (b) "Special food product" means a food product that is specially formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving and is intended to be consumed under the direction of a physician for the dietary treatment of an inherited metabolic disease. The term does not include a food that is naturally low in protein.
- **Sec. 17.** Chapter 695C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 18 and 19 of this act.
- Sec. 18. A health maintenance organization shall, at the request of an enrollee or provider of health care with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services, provide as soon as practicable to the enrollee or provider of health care:
- 1. An estimate of the rate at which the provider of health care will be reimbursed for providing a health care service to the enrollee and the amount of money for which the enrollee will be responsible for the health care service; or
- 2. If the health maintenance organization pays claims on the basis of fees for health care services that are usual and customary, an estimate of



the usual and customary fee for providing a health care service to the enrollee and the percentage of that fee for which the enrollee will be responsible, including, without limitation, the percentage of the fee for which the enrollee will be responsible if the health care service provided to the enrollee is provided by a provider of health care who does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with the health maintenance organization.

- Sec. 19. 1. If an enrollee requires health care services that may be provided by a specialist and his health maintenance organization does not have a contract for the provision of health care services with such a specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the enrollee, the health maintenance organization shall reimburse:
- (a) A specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the enrollee; or
- (b) A specialist whose place of business is located more than 50 miles from the residence of the enrollee if there is no specialist whose place of business is located within 50 miles from the residence of the enrollee, for specialized health care services that are provided to the enrollee by that specialist.
- 2. A health maintenance organization shall reimburse a specialist pursuant to the provisions of this section in an amount that is not less than the amount the health maintenance organization would be required to reimburse a specialist with whom it has a contract for the provision of health care services.
 - **Sec. 20.** NRS 695C.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 695C.050 1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or in specific provisions of this Title, the provisions of this Title are not applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a certificate of authority under this chapter. This provision does not apply to an insurer licensed and regulated pursuant to this Title except with respect to its activities as a health maintenance organization authorized and regulated pursuant to this chapter.
- 2. Solicitation of enrollees by a health maintenance organization granted a certificate of authority, or its representatives, must not be construed to violate any provision of law relating to solicitation or advertising by practitioners of a healing art.
- 3. Any health maintenance organization authorized under this chapter shall not be deemed to be practicing medicine and is exempt from the provisions of chapter 630 of NRS.
- 4. The provisions of NRS 695C.110, 695C.170 to 695C.200, inclusive, 695C.250 and 695C.265 and sections 18 and 19 of this act do not apply to a health maintenance organization that provides health care services through managed care to recipients of Medicaid under the state plan for Medicaid or insurance pursuant to the children's health insurance program pursuant to a contract with the division of health care financing and policy of the department of human resources. This subsection does not exempt a



health maintenance organization from any provision of this chapter for services provided pursuant to any other contract.

- 5. The provisions of NRS 695C.1694 and 695C.1695 apply to a health maintenance organization that provides health care services through managed care to recipients of Medicaid under the state plan for Medicaid.
 - **Sec. 21.** NRS 695C.1723 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 695C.1723 1. A health maintenance plan must provide coverage for:
- (a) Enteral formulas for use at home that are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of inherited metabolic diseases characterized by deficient metabolism, or malabsorption originating from congenital defects or defects arising shortly after birth, of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat; and
- (b) [At least \$2,500 per year for special] Special food products which are prescribed or ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the treatment of a person described in paragraph (a).
 - 2. The coverage required by subsection 1 must be [provided]:
- (a) **Provided** whether or not the condition existed when the health maintenance plan was purchased [...]; and
- (b) Subject to the same deductible, copayment, coinsurance, waiting period and any other conditions for coverage that are required under the health maintenance plan.
- 3. Any evidence of coverage subject to the provisions of this chapter that is delivered, issued for delivery or renewed on or after [January 1, 1998,] October 1, 2001, has the legal effect of including the coverage required by this section, and any provision of the evidence of coverage or the renewal which is in conflict with this section is void.
- 4. As used in this section:

- (a) "Inherited metabolic disease" means a disease caused by an inherited abnormality of the body chemistry of a person.
- (b) "Special food product" means a food product that is specially formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving and is intended to be consumed under the direction of a physician for the dietary treatment of an inherited metabolic disease. The term does not include a food that is naturally low in protein.
 - Sec. 22. NRS 695F.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 695F.090 Prepaid limited health service organizations are subject to the provisions of this chapter and to the following provisions, to the extent reasonably applicable:

 1. NRS 687B.310 to 687B.420, inclusive, concerning cancellation and
 - 1. NRS 687B.310 to 687B.420, inclusive, concerning cancellation and nonrenewal of policies.
 - 2. NRS 687B.122 to 687B.128, inclusive, concerning readability of policies.
 - 3. The requirements of NRS 679B.152.
 - 4. The fees imposed pursuant to NRS 449.465.
 - 5. NRS 686A.010 to 686A.310, inclusive, concerning trade practices and frauds.
 - 6. The assessment imposed pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 679B.158.
 - 7. Chapter 683A of NRS.



- 8. [To the extent applicable, the provisions of] NRS 689B.340 to 689B.600, inclusive, and chapter 689C of NRS relating to the portability and availability of health insurance.
- 9. NRS 689A.035, 689A.410 and 689A.413 [-] and sections 3 and 4 of this act.
- 10. NRS 680B.025 to 680B.039, inclusive, concerning premium tax, premium tax rate, annual report and estimated quarterly tax payments. For the purposes of this subsection, unless the context otherwise requires that a section apply only to insurers, any reference in those sections to "insurer" must be replaced by a reference to "prepaid limited health service organization."
 - 11. Chapter 692C of NRS, concerning holding companies.
- **Sec. 23.** Chapter 287 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

If the board provides health insurance through a plan of self-insurance, it shall comply with the provisions of NRS 689B.255, 695G.150, 695G.160, 695G.170, 695G.200 to 695G.230, inclusive, and sections 7 and 8 of this act in the same manner as an insurer that is licensed pursuant to Title 57 of NRS is required to comply with those provisions.

Sec. 24. NRS 287.0402 is hereby amended to read as follows:

287.0402 As used in NRS 287.0402 to 287.049, inclusive, *and section* 23 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 287.0404 and 287.0406 have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 25. NRS 287.043 is hereby amended to read as follows:

287.043 1. The board shall:

- (a) Establish and carry out a program to be known as the public employees' benefits program which:
- (1) Must include a program relating to group life, accident or health insurance, or any combination of these; and
- (2) May include a program to reduce taxable compensation or other forms of compensation other than deferred compensation, for the benefit of all state officers and employees and other persons who participate in the program.
- (b) Ensure that the program is funded on an actuarially sound basis and operated in accordance with sound insurance and business practices.
 - 2. In establishing and carrying out the program, the board shall:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, negotiate and contract with the governing body of any public agency enumerated in NRS 287.010 [which is desirous of obtaining] that wishes to obtain group insurance for its officers, employees and retired employees by participation in the program. The board shall establish separate rates and coverage for those officers, employees and retired employees based on actuarial reports.
- (b) [Give] Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), provide public notice in writing of any proposed changes in rates or coverage to each participating public employer who may be affected by the changes. Notice must be provided at least 30 days before the effective date of the changes.



(c) If a proposed change is a change in the premium charged for or coverage of health insurance, provide written notice of the proposed change to all state officers, employees, retired employees and other persons who participate in the program and may be affected by the proposed change. The notice must be provided at least 60 days before the date a state officer, employee, retired employee or other person is required to select or change his policy of health insurance.

 required to select or change his policy of health insurance.

(d) Purchase policies of life, accident or health insurance, or any combination of these, or, if applicable, a program to reduce the amount of taxable compensation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 125, from any company qualified to do business in this state or provide similar coverage through a plan of self-insurance established pursuant to NRS 287.0433 for the benefit of all eligible public officers, employees and retired employees who participate in the program.

(d) (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Title, develop and establish other employee benefits as necessary.

((e)) (f) Investigate and approve or disapprove any contract proposed pursuant to NRS 287.0479.

(f) (g) Adopt such regulations and perform such other duties as are necessary to carry out the provisions of NRS 287.0402 to 287.049, inclusive, and section 23 of this act, including, without limitation, the establishment of:

- (1) Fees for applications for participation in the program and for the late payment of premiums or contributions;
- (2) Conditions for entry and reentry into the program by public agencies enumerated in NRS 287.010;
- (3) The levels of participation in the program required for employees of participating public agencies;
- (4) Procedures by which a group of participants in the program may leave the program pursuant to NRS 287.0479 and conditions and procedures for reentry into the program by [such] those participants; and
- (5) Specific procedures for the determination of contested claims.

 [(g)] (h) Appoint an independent certified public accountant. The accountant shall provide:
 - (1) An annual audit of the program; and
- (2) A biennial audit of the program to determine whether the program complies with federal and state laws relating to taxes and employee benefits.

The accountant shall report to the board and the interim retirement and benefits committee of the legislature created pursuant to NRS 218.5373.

- 3. The board may use any services provided to state agencies and shall use the services of the purchasing division of the department of administration to establish and carry out the program.
- 4. The board may make recommendations to the legislature concerning legislation that it deems necessary and appropriate regarding the program.
- 5. The state and any other public employers that participate in the program are not liable for any obligation of the program other than indemnification of the board and its employees against liability relating to



- the administration of the program, subject to the limitations specified in NRS 41.0349.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6. As used in this section, "employee benefits" includes any form of compensation provided to a state employee pursuant to this Title except federal benefits, wages earned, legal holidays, deferred compensation and benefits available pursuant to chapter 286 of NRS.



