

New York State Senate Introducer's Memorandum in Support submitted in accordance with Senate Rule VI. Sec 1

Bill Number: S5471

Purpose: This bill expands access to health insurance by allowing unmarried children through age 29, regardless of financial dependence, to be covered under a parent's group health insurance policy.

Summary of Provisions:

Section 1 –

Requires commercial insurers to make available an option for consumers purchasing individual health insurance to cover unmarried dependents through age 29 without regard to financial dependence. The young adults must not be eligible for coverage under employer sponsored insurance and they must live, work or reside in New York State or in the service area of the insurer. The option must be extended at policy inception and at the first anniversary date following the effective date of the provisions.

Section 2 –

Requires commercial insurers that provide group health insurance coverage to extend an option to continue coverage to unmarried children who have “aged off” of their parents’ group health insurance policies. The “dependent children” may continue to be covered under their parents’ group policy through age 29 as long as they are not eligible for employer sponsored health insurance coverage and are not covered by Medicare. Such children are not required to be financially dependent on their parents to elect this benefit.

Also provides that employers shall not be required to pay for premiums for dependent children electing this continuation option. This section of the bill also allows an employee, group member or dependent child to elect to purchase group health insurance coverage:

- (1) within 60 days following the date coverage would otherwise terminate due to age, under the terms of the parent's policy
- (2) within 60 days after meeting the definition of “dependent child, or
- (3) during an annual 30-day open enrollment period.

Dependent children whose coverage terminated prior to the effective date of the bill would have a period of 12 months from the effective date to elect coverage.



Requires an insurer to submit reports as the Superintendent of Insurance (“Superintendent”) may request, in a form and manner to be prescribed by the Superintendent.

Section 3 –

Requires commercial insurers to make available an option for consumers of group health insurance to cover unmarried dependents through age 29 without regard to financial dependence. The option must be extended at policy inception and annually upon the policy’s anniversary date.

Section 4, 5, & 6 –

Requires non-for-profit corporations and health maintenance organizations (“HMOs”) to extend the same dependent through 29 regulations.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on September 1, 2009 and applies to contracts issued, renewed, modified, altered or amended on or after that date.

