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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

Senate Bill No. 408

(By Senators Minard, Foster, Jenkins, Kessler (Acting President),
Chafin and Stollings)

[Originating in the Committee on Finance;
reported February 23, 2011.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §33-16G-1, §33-16G-2, §33-16G-3, §33-16G-4, §33-16G-5, §33-16G-6, §33-16G-7, §33-16G-8, §33-16G-9 and §33-16G-10, all relating generally to the health benefit exchange; setting forth purpose; defining terms; providing for the establishment of the West Virginia Health Benefit Exchange; establishing the governing board of directors; providing for membership on the board of directors; setting forth meeting requirements of the board of directors; allowing the board of directors to hire an executive director and appropriate staff; providing for an annual report by the board of directors; setting forth the

1 functions of the exchange; outlining the board's duties and
2 authority; setting forth a health benefit plan certification
3 process; authorizing emergency and legislative rulemaking;
4 establishing a special revenue account; and authorizing
5 assessment of fees.

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

7 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
8 by adding thereto a new article, designated §33-16G-1, §33-16G-2,
9 §33-16G-3, §33-16G-4, §33-16G-5, §33-16G-6, §33-16G-7, §33-16G-8,
10 §33-16G-9 and §33-16G-10, all to read as follows:

11 **ARTICLE 16G. WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ACT.**

12 **§33-16G-1. Purpose.**

13 The purpose of this article is to establish a West Virginia
14 Health Benefit Exchange to facilitate the purchase and sale of
15 qualified health plans in the individual market in this state and
16 a Small Business Health Options Program within the exchange to
17 assist qualified small employers in this state in facilitating
18 the enrollment of their employees in qualified health plans.

19 **§33-16G-2. Definitions.**

20 For purposes of this article:

21 (a) "Board" means the board established in section four of
22 this article.

23 (b) "Commissioner" means the West Virginia Insurance
24 Commissioner.

25 (c) "Exchange" means the West Virginia Health Benefit

1 Exchange established pursuant to section four of this article.

2 (d) "Federal Act" means the Federal Patient Protection and
3 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
4 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
5 (Public Law 111-152), and any amendments thereto, or regulations
6 or guidance issued thereunder.

7 (e) "Free Choice Voucher" means those persons, groups or
8 organizations set forth in section 10108 of the Federal Patient
9 Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as
10 amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation
11 Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

12 (f) "Health benefit plan" means a policy, contract,
13 certificate or agreement offered or issued by a health carrier to
14 provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for or reimburse any of the
15 costs of health care services.

16 (1) "Health benefit plan" does not include:

17 (A) Coverage only for accident, or disability income
18 insurance, or any combination thereof;

19 (B) Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;

20 (C) Liability insurance, including general liability
21 insurance and automobile liability insurance;

22 (D) Workers' compensation or similar insurance;

23 (E) Automobile medical payment insurance;

24 (F) Credit-only insurance;

25 (G) Coverage for on-site medical clinics; or

26 (H) Other similar insurance coverage, specified in federal

1 regulations issued pursuant to Pub. L. No. 104-191, under which
2 benefits for health care services are secondary or incidental to
3 other insurance benefits.

4 (2) "Health benefit plan" also does not include the
5 following benefits if they are provided under a separate policy,
6 certificate or contract of insurance or are otherwise not an
7 integral part of the plan:

8 (A) Limited scope dental or vision benefits;

9 (B) Benefits for long-term care, nursing home care, home
10 health care, community-based care, or any combination thereof; or

11 (C) Other similar, limited benefits specified in federal
12 regulations issued pursuant to Pub. L. No. 104-191.

13 (3) "Health benefit plan" does not include the following
14 benefits if the benefits are provided under a separate policy,
15 certificate or contract of insurance, there is no coordination
16 between the provision of the benefits and any exclusion of
17 benefits under any group health plan maintained by the same plan
18 sponsor, and the benefits are paid with respect to an event
19 without regard to whether benefits are provided with respect to
20 such an event under any group health plan maintained by the same
21 plan sponsor:

22 (A) Coverage only for a specified disease or illness; or

23 (B) Hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance.

24 (4) "Health benefit plan" does not include the following if
25 offered as a separate policy, certificate or contract of
26 insurance:

1 (A) Medicare supplemental health insurance as defined under
2 section 1882(g)(1) of the Social Security Act;

3 (B) Coverage supplemental to the coverage provided under
4 chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code (Civilian Health and
5 Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS)); or

6 (C) Similar supplemental coverage provided to coverage under
7 a group health plan.

8 (g) "Health carrier" or "carrier" means an entity subject to
9 the insurance laws of this state, or subject to the jurisdiction
10 of the commissioner, that contracts or offers to contract to
11 provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the
12 costs of health care services, including a sickness and accident
13 insurance company, a health maintenance organization, a nonprofit
14 hospital and health service corporation, or any other entity
15 providing a plan of health insurance, health benefits or health
16 services.

17 (h) "Levels of Coverage" means those coverage levels set
18 forth in section 1302 of the Federal Patient Protection and
19 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
20 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
21 (Public Law 111-152).

22 These levels shall be as follows:

23 (1) "Bronze level" means a plan shall provide a level of
24 coverage that is designed to provide benefits that are
25 actuarially equivalent to 60 percent of the full actuarial value
26 of the benefits provided under the plan.

1 (2) "Silver level" means a plan shall provide a level of
2 coverage that is designed to provide benefits that are
3 actuarially equivalent to 70 percent of the full actuarial value
4 of the benefits provided under the plan.

5 (3) "Gold level" means a plan shall provide a level of
6 coverage that is designed to provide benefits that are
7 actuarially equivalent to 80 percent of the full actuarial value
8 of the benefits provided under the plan.

9 (4) "Platinum level" means a plan shall provide a level of
10 coverage that is designed to provide benefits that are
11 actuarially equivalent to 90 percent of the full actuarial value
12 of the benefits provided under the plan.

13 (i) "Navigator" means those persons, groups or organizations
14 set forth in section 1311(i) of the Federal Patient Protection
15 and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
16 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
17 (Public Law 111-152).

18 (j) "Public Health Service Act" or "PHSA" means the
19 provisions of 42 U.S.C. §300g *et seq.*, and any amendments
20 thereto, or regulations or guidance issued thereunder.

21 (k) "Qualified dental plan" means a limited scope dental
22 plan that has been certified in accordance with this article.

23 (l) "Qualified employee" means the same as that term is used
24 in the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public
25 Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education
26 Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

1 (m) "Qualified employer" means a small employer that elects
2 to make its full-time employees eligible for one or more
3 qualified health plans offered through the SHOP Exchange, and at
4 the option of the employer, some or all of its part-time
5 employees, provided that the employer:

6 (1) Has its principal place of business in this state and
7 elects to provide coverage through the SHOP Exchange to all of
8 its eligible employees, wherever employed; or

9 (2) Elects to provide coverage through the SHOP Exchange to
10 all of its eligible employees who are principally employed in
11 this state.

12 (n) "Qualified health plan" means a health benefit plan that
13 has in effect a certification that the plan meets the criteria
14 for certification described in this article.

15 (o) "Qualified individual" means a resident of this state or
16 a state that is a party to a regional exchange with West Virginia
17 who is seeking to enroll in a qualified health plan offered to
18 individuals through the exchange, who is not incarcerated due to
19 a conviction, and who is and is reasonably expected to be for the
20 entire period for which enrollment is sought, a citizen or
21 national of the United States or an alien lawfully present in the
22 United States.

23 (p) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the United States
24 Department of Health and Human Services.

25 (q) "SHOP Exchange" means the Small Business Health Options
26 Program established under this article.

1 (r) "Small employer" means an employer that employed an
2 average of not more than fifty employees during the preceding
3 calendar year. An employer that makes enrollment in qualified
4 health plans available to its employees through the SHOP Exchange
5 and that would cease to be a small employer by reason of an
6 increase in the number of its employees, shall continue to be
7 treated as a small employer for purposes of this article as long
8 as it continuously makes enrollment through the SHOP Exchange
9 available to its employees. The board created in section five of
10 this article has the authority to modify the maximum number of
11 employees that constitute a small employer up to one hundred
12 employees pursuant to the provisions of section 1304(b)(2) of the
13 Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law
14 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education
15 Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

16 **§33-16G-3. Establishment of exchange.**

17 (a) There is established within the Offices of the Insurance
18 Commissioner an entity known as the West Virginia Health Benefit
19 Exchange. This is a governmental entity of the state.

20 (b) The exchange shall:

21 (1) Facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health
22 plans;

23 (2) Provide for the establishment of a SHOP Exchange to
24 assist qualified small employers in this state in facilitating
25 the enrollment of their employees in qualified health plans; and

26 (3) Meet the requirements of this article and any emergency

1 and legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

2 (c) The exchange may accept gifts, grants and bequests,
3 contract with other persons, and enter into memoranda of
4 understanding with other governmental agencies to carry out any
5 of its functions, including agreements with other states to
6 perform joint administrative functions. The provisions of
7 article three, chapter five-a of this code relating to the
8 Purchasing Division of the Department of Administration do not
9 apply to these contracts. The exchange may not enter into
10 contracts with any health insurance carrier or an affiliate of a
11 health insurance carrier.

12 (d) The exchange may enter into information-sharing
13 agreements with federal and state agencies and other state
14 exchanges to carry out its responsibilities under this article,
15 provided such agreements include adequate protections with
16 respect to the confidentiality of the information to be shared
17 and comply with all state and federal laws and regulations.

18 **§33-16G-4. Duties of exchange.**

19 (a) The exchange shall make qualified health plans available
20 to qualified individuals and qualified employers beginning no
21 later than January 1, 2014, and it may not make available any
22 health benefit plan that is not a qualified health plan:

23 *Provided,* That the exchange shall allow a health carrier to offer
24 a plan that provides limited scope dental benefits meeting the
25 requirements of section 9832(c)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue
26 Code of 1986 through the exchange, either separately or in

1 conjunction with a qualified health plan, if the plan provides
2 pediatric dental benefits meeting the requirements of section
3 1302(b)(1)(J) of the federal act.

4 (b) The exchange shall, consistent with any applicable
5 guidelines issued by the secretary and under the supervision of
6 the board:

7 (1) Implement procedures for the certification,
8 recertification and decertification of health benefit plans as
9 qualified health plans;

10 (2) Provide for the operation of a toll-free telephone
11 hotline to respond to requests for assistance;

12 (3) Provide for enrollment periods;

13 (4) Maintain an Internet website and a toll-free telephone
14 line through which enrollees and prospective enrollees of
15 qualified health plans may obtain standardized comparative
16 information on such plans;

17 (5) Assign a rating to each qualified health plan offered
18 through the exchange in accordance with the criteria developed by
19 the secretary and determine each qualified health plan's level of
20 coverage;

21 (6) Use a standardized format for presenting health benefit
22 options in the exchange;

23 (7) Inform individuals of eligibility requirements for the
24 Medicaid program, the Children's Health Insurance Program or any
25 applicable state or local public program, and provide for the
26 enrollment of any individual determined to be eligible for any

1 such program;

2 (8) Establish and make available by electronic means a
3 calculator to determine the actual cost of coverage after
4 application of any applicable premium tax credit or cost-sharing
5 reduction;

6 (9) Establish a SHOP Exchange through which qualified
7 employers may access coverage for their employees;

8 (10) Grant a certification attesting that an individual is
9 exempt from the individual responsibility requirement or from the
10 penalty imposed by federal law;

11 (11) Transfer to the United States Secretary of the Treasury
12 the name and taxpayer identification number of each individual
13 who:

14 (A) Was issued a certification under subdivision (10) of
15 this subsection;

16 (B) Was an employee who was determined to be eligible for
17 the premium tax credit under section 36B of the Internal Revenue
18 Code but who was determined to be eligible for the premium tax
19 credit under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
20 because either the employer did not provide minimum essential
21 coverage or the employer provided the minimum essential coverage,
22 but it was determined under section 36B(c)(2)(C) of the Internal
23 Revenue Code to either be unaffordable to the employee or not
24 provide the required minimum actuarial value;

25 (C) Notifies the Exchange that he or she has changed
26 employers; and

1 (D) Ceases coverage under a qualified health plan during a
2 plan year and the effective date of that cessation;

3 (12) Provide to each employer the name of each employee of
4 the employer described in paragraph B, subdivision (11) of this
5 subsection who ceases coverage under a qualified health plan
6 during a plan year and the effective date of the cessation;

7 (13) Perform duties required of the exchange by the
8 Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury related to determining
9 eligibility for premium tax credits, reduced cost-sharing or
10 individual responsibility requirement exemptions;

11 (14) Select entities qualified to serve as navigators in
12 accordance with the Federal Act and standards developed by the
13 secretary, and award grants to enable navigators to:

14 (A) Educate the public about the availability of qualified
15 health plans and of premium tax credits and cost-sharing
16 reductions;

17 (B) Distribute fair and impartial information concerning
18 enrollment in qualified health plans;

19 (C) Facilitate enrollment in qualified health plans;

20 (D) Provide referrals to the consumer services division of
21 the West Virginia offices of the Insurance Commissioner or any
22 other appropriate state agency for any enrollee with a grievance,
23 complaint or question regarding their health benefit plan,
24 coverage or a determination under that plan or coverage; and

25 (E) Provide information in a manner that is culturally and
26 linguistically appropriate to the needs of the population being

1 served by the exchange;

2 (15) Review the rate of premium growth within the exchange
3 and outside the exchange, and consider the information in
4 developing recommendations on whether to continue limiting
5 qualified employer status to small employers;

6 (16) Credit the amount of any free choice voucher to the
7 monthly premium of the plan in which a qualified employee is
8 enrolled, in accordance with the federal act, and collect the
9 amount credited from the offering employer;

10 (17) Consult with stakeholders relevant to carrying out the
11 activities required under this article; and

12 (18) Meet the following financial integrity requirements:

13 (A) Keep an accurate accounting of all activities, receipts
14 and expenditures and annually submit to the secretary, the
15 Governor, the commissioner and the Legislature a report
16 concerning such accountings:

17 (B) Fully cooperate with any investigation conducted by the
18 secretary pursuant to the secretary's authority under the Federal
19 Act and allow the secretary, in coordination with the Inspector
20 General of the United States Department of Health and Humans
21 Services, to:

22 (i) Investigate the affairs of the exchange;

23 (ii) Examine the properties and records of the exchange; and

24 (iii) Require periodic reports in relation to the activities
25 undertaken by the exchange; and

26 (C) In carrying out its activities under this article, not

1 use any funds intended for the administrative and operational
2 expenses of the exchange for staff retreats, promotional
3 giveaways, excessive executive compensation or promotion of
4 federal or state legislative and regulatory modifications.

5 (c) Prior to 2015, the requirements of this section are
6 contingent with the availability of sufficient funding, and in
7 the event of a decrease in anticipated funding from the federal
8 government or other sources, the board may reassess the
9 feasibility of meeting each of the requirements listed in this
10 section and make appropriate adjustments to the functions of the
11 exchange as are deemed necessary.

12 **§33-16G-5. Establishment of governing board of the exchange.**

13 (a) The exchange shall operate subject to the supervision
14 and control of a governing board. The powers conferred upon the
15 board by this article and the carrying out of its purposes and
16 duties shall be considered to be essential governmental functions
17 and for a public purpose. The Governor shall appoint a
18 chairperson of the board from the membership set forth in
19 subsection (b) of this section, with the advice and consent of
20 the Senate.

21 (b) The board shall be composed of the following members:

22 (1) Four voting *ex officio* members: The Commissioner; the
23 Commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services;
24 the Director of the West Virginia Children's Health Insurance
25 Program; and the Chair of the West Virginia Health Care
26 Authority. *Ex officio* members may designate a representative to

1 serve in his or her place;

2 (2) Four persons appointed by the Governor with advice and
3 consent of the Senate, each to represent the interests of one of
4 the following groups: Individual health care consumers; small
5 employers; organized labor; and insurance producers;

6 (3) One person to represent the interests of payers who is
7 selected by majority vote of an advisory group comprising
8 representatives of the ten carriers with the highest health
9 insurance premium volume in this state in the preceding calendar
10 year, as certified by the commissioner. Beginning in 2014, the
11 advisory group shall be comprised only of representatives of
12 those carriers that are offering qualified plans in the exchange
13 regardless of premium volume: *Provided*, That the member selected
14 pursuant to this paragraph may not be an employee of a carrier or
15 an affiliate of a carrier eligible to select such member; and

16 (4) One person to represent the interests of health care
17 providers selected by the majority vote of an advisory group
18 comprised of a representative of each of the following: West
19 Virginia Association of Free Clinics, West Virginia Hospital
20 Association, West Virginia State Medical Association, West
21 Virginia Primary Care Association, West Virginia Nurses
22 Association, West Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine, West
23 Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, West Virginia Pharmacists
24 Association, West Virginia Dental Association, West Virginia
25 Behavioral Health Care Providers, West Virginia Chiropractic
26 Society, West Virginia Optometric Association, West Virginia

1 Podiatric Medical Association, West Virginia Physical Therapists
2 Association, and a full-time director of a county or regional
3 health department selected by all full-time directors of all
4 county or regional health departments.

5 (5) Selection of board members pursuant to paragraphs (3)
6 and (4) of this subdivision shall be conducted in a manner and at
7 such times designated by the chair of the board.

8 (6) Each member appointed pursuant to paragraph (2) of this
9 section or selected pursuant to paragraph (3) or (4) of this
10 subsection shall serve a term of two years and is eligible to be
11 reappointed. Any appointed or selected member whose term has
12 expired may continue to serve until either he or she has been
13 reappointed or his or her successor has been duly appointed or
14 selected.

15 (c) Board members may be removed by the Governor for cause.

16 (d) Members of the board are not entitled to compensation
17 for services performed as members but are entitled to
18 reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually
19 incurred in the performance of their duties.

20 (e) Seven members of the board constitute a quorum, and the
21 affirmative vote of six members is necessary for any action taken
22 by vote of the board. No vacancy in the membership of the board
23 impairs the rights of a quorum by such vote to exercise all the
24 rights and perform all the duties of the board.

25 (f) The board may employ an executive director who has
26 overall management responsibility for the exchange and such

1 employees as may be necessary. The executive director and
2 employees of the exchange shall receive a salary as provided by
3 the board. The executive director and all employees of the board
4 are exempt from the classified service and not subject to the
5 procedures and protections provided by article two, chapter six-c
6 of this code and article six, chapter twenty-nine of this code;

7 (g) The board has the authority to modify the definition of
8 a small employer as set forth in subsection (q), section two of
9 this article to provide that a small employer may mean an
10 employer that employed an average of not more than one hundred
11 employees during the preceding calendar year consistent with
12 section 1304(b) (2) of the Federal Patient Protection and
13 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the
14 federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
15 (Public Law 111-152).

16 (h) The board shall make an annual report to the Governor
17 and also file it with the Joint Committee on Government and
18 Finance. The report shall summarize the activities of the
19 exchange in the preceding calendar year.

20 (i) Neither the board nor its employees are liable for any
21 obligations of the exchange. No member of the board or employee
22 of the exchange is liable and no cause of action of any nature
23 may arise against them for any act or omission related to the
24 performance of their powers and duties under this article unless
25 the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.
26 The board may provide in its bylaws or rules for indemnification

1 of, and legal representation for, its members and employees.

2 (j) Members of the board shall receive governmental ethics
3 training within the first six months of being appointed.

4 Additional ethics training is required for board members at least
5 every two years thereafter.

6 **§33-16G-6. Health benefit plan certification.**

7 (a) The exchange may certify a health benefit plan as a
8 qualified health plan if:

9 (1) The plan provides the essential health benefits package
10 of the federal act, except that the plan is not required to
11 provide essential benefits that duplicate the minimum benefits of
12 qualified dental plans if:

13 (A) The exchange has determined that at least one qualified
14 dental plan is available to supplement the plans' coverage; and

15 (B) The carrier makes prominent disclosure at the time it
16 offers the plan, in a form approved by the exchange, that the
17 plan does not provide the full range of essential pediatric
18 benefits, and that qualified dental plans providing those
19 benefits and other dental benefits not covered by the plan are
20 offered through the exchange.

21 (2) The premium rates and contract language have been
22 approved by the commissioner;

23 (3) The plan provides at least a bronze level of coverage,
24 unless the plan is certified as a qualified catastrophic plan,
25 meets the requirements of the federal act and implementing rules
26 for catastrophic plans, and will only be offered to individuals

1 eligible for catastrophic coverage;

2 (4) The plan's cost-sharing requirements do not exceed the
3 limits established under the federal act, and if the plan is
4 offered through the SHOP Exchange, the plan's deductible does not
5 exceed the limits established under the federal act;

6 (5) The health carrier offering the plan:

7 (A) Is licensed and in good standing to offer health
8 insurance coverage in this state;

9 (B) Offers at least one qualified health plan in the silver
10 level and at least one plan in the gold level through each
11 component of the exchange in which the carrier participates,
12 where "component" refers to the SHOP Exchange and the exchange
13 for individual coverage;

14 (C) Charges the same premium rate for each qualified health
15 plan without regard to whether the plan is offered through the
16 exchange and without regard to whether the plan is offered
17 directly from the carrier or through an insurance producer;

18 (D) Does not charge any cancellation fees or penalties in
19 violation of the federal act; and

20 (E) Complies with the regulations developed by the secretary
21 under section 1311(d) of the Federal Act, implementing rules and
22 such other requirements as the exchange may establish;

23 (6) The plan meets the requirements of certification as set
24 forth in emergency and legislative rules promulgated pursuant to
25 section eight of this article, which include, but are not limited
26 to, minimum standards in the areas of marketing practices,

1 network adequacy, essential community providers in underserved
2 areas, accreditation, quality improvement, uniform enrollment
3 forms and descriptions of coverage and information on quality
4 measures for health benefit plan performance; and

5 (7) The exchange determines that making the plan available
6 through the exchange is in the interest of qualified individuals
7 and qualified employers in this state.

8 (b) The exchange may not exclude a health benefit plan:

9 (1) On the basis that the plan is a fee-for-service plan;

10 (2) Through the imposition of premium price controls by the
11 exchange; or

12 (3) On the basis that the health benefit plan provides
13 treatments necessary to prevent patients' deaths in circumstances
14 the exchange determines are inappropriate or too costly.

15 (c) The exchange shall require each health carrier seeking
16 certification of a plan as a qualified health plan to:

17 (1) Submit a justification for any premium increase before
18 implementation of that increase. The carrier shall prominently
19 post the information on its Internet website and through the
20 toll-free telephone line. The exchange shall take this
21 information, along with the information and the recommendations
22 provided to the exchange by the commissioner, into consideration
23 when determining whether to allow the carrier to make plans
24 available through the Exchange;

25 (2) Make available to the public and submit to the exchange,
26 the secretary, and the commissioner, accurate and timely

1 disclosure of the following:

2 (A) Claims payment policies and practices;

3 (B) Periodic financial disclosures;

4 (C) Data on enrollment;

5 (D) Data on disenrollment;

6 (E) Data on the number of claims that are denied;

7 (F) Data on rating practices;

8 (G) Information on cost-sharing and payments with respect to
9 any out-of-network coverage;

10 (H) Information on enrollee and participant rights under
11 title I of the Federal Act; and

12 (I) Other information as determined appropriate by the
13 secretary; and

14 (3) Permit individuals to learn, in a timely manner upon the
15 request, the amount of cost-sharing, including deductibles,
16 copayments and coinsurance, under the individual's plan or
17 coverage that the individual would be responsible for with
18 respect to the furnishing of a specific item or service by a
19 participating provider. At a minimum, this information shall be
20 made available to the individual through an Internet website, a
21 toll-free telephone line and through other means for individuals
22 without access to the Internet.

23 (d) The exchange may not exempt any health carrier seeking
24 certification of a qualified health plan, regardless of the type
25 or size of the carrier, from state licensure or solvency
26 requirements and shall apply the criteria of this section in a

1 manner that assures a level playing field between health carriers
2 participating in the exchange.

3 (e) The provisions of this article that are applicable to
4 qualified health plans also apply to the extent relevant to
5 qualified dental plans except as modified by emergency or
6 legislative rules promulgated pursuant to section eight of this
7 article or as follows:

8 (1) The carrier shall be licensed to offer dental coverage,
9 but need not be licensed to offer other health benefits;

10 (2) The plan shall be limited to dental and oral health
11 benefits, without substantially duplicating the benefits
12 typically offered by health benefit plans without dental coverage
13 and shall include, at a minimum, the essential pediatric dental
14 benefits prescribed by the Secretary pursuant to section
15 1302(b)(1)(J) of the federal act, and such other dental benefits
16 as the exchange or the Secretary shall prescribe in rules or
17 regulations; and

18 (3) Carriers may jointly offer a comprehensive plan through
19 the exchange in which the dental benefits are provided by a
20 carrier through a qualified dental plan and the other benefits
21 are provided by a carrier through a qualified health plan,
22 provided that the plans are priced separately and are also made
23 available for purchase separately at the same price.

24 **§33-16G-7. Funding; publication of costs.**

25 (a) On and after July 1, 2011, the board is authorized to
26 assess fees on health carriers licensed in this state, including

1 health carriers that do not participate in the exchange, and
2 shall establish the amount of such fees and the manner of the
3 remittance and collection of such fees in legislative rules.
4 Fees shall be based on premium volume of health insurance in this
5 state and shall be for the purpose of operation of the exchange.

6 (b) The exchange shall publish the average costs of
7 licensing, regulatory fees and any other payments required by the
8 exchange, and the administrative costs of the exchange, on an
9 Internet website to educate consumers on such costs. This
10 information shall include information on moneys lost to waste,
11 fraud and abuse.

12 **§33-16G-8. Rules.**

13 The exchange may promulgate emergency and legislative rules
14 for adoption by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of
15 article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement
16 the provisions of this article. Emergency or legislative rules
17 promulgated under this section may not conflict with or prevent
18 the application of the federal act or regulations promulgated by
19 the secretary under such act.

20 **§33-16G-9. Relation to other laws.**

21 Nothing in this article, and no action taken by the exchange
22 pursuant to this article, preempts or supersedes the authority of
23 the commissioner to regulate the business of insurance within
24 this state and, except as expressly provided to the contrary in
25 this article, all health carriers offering qualified health plans
26 in this state shall comply fully with all applicable health

1 insurance laws of this state and regulations adopted and orders
2 issued by the commissioner.

3 **§33-16G-10. Special revenue account created.**

4 (a) There is hereby created a special revenue account in the
5 State Treasury, designated the "West Virginia Health Benefits
6 Exchange Fund", which shall be an interest-bearing account and
7 may be invested in the manner permitted by article six, chapter
8 twelve of this code, with the interest income a proper credit to
9 the fund, unless otherwise designated in law. The fund shall be
10 administered by the board and used to pay all proper costs
11 incurred in implementing the provisions of this article. Moneys
12 deposited into this account are available for expenditure as the
13 board may direct in accordance with the provisions of this
14 article. Expenditures shall be for the purposes set forth in
15 this article, are authorized from collections and do not revert
16 to the General Fund.

17 (b) The following shall be paid into this account:

18 (1) All funds from the federal government received and
19 dedicated to or otherwise able to be used for the purposes of
20 this article;

21 (2) All other payments, gifts, grants, bequests or income
22 from any source;

23 (3) Fees on health carriers established by the board; and

24 (4) Appropriations from the Legislature.

(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for a health insurance exchange in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

This article is new; therefore, underscoring and strike-throughs have been omitted.)