

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **Senate Bill No. 408**

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

6 _____
7 [Originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources;
8 reported February 16, 2011.]
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11
12 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
13 adding thereto a new article, designated §33-16G-1, §33-16G-2,
14 §33-16G-3, §33-16G-4, §33-16G-5, §33-16G-6, §33-16G-7, §33-
15 16G-8, §33-16G-9 and §33-16G-10, all relating generally to the
16 health benefit exchange; setting forth purpose; defining
17 terms; providing for the establishment of the West Virginia
18 Health Benefit Exchange; establishing the governing board of
19 directors; providing for membership on the board of directors;
20 setting forth meeting requirements of the board of directors;
21 allowing the board of directors to hire an executive director
22 and appropriate staff; providing for an annual report by the
23 board of directors; setting forth the functions of the
24 exchange; outlining the board's duties and authority; setting
25 forth a health benefit plan certification process;
26 authorizing emergency and legislative rulemaking; establishing

1 a special revenue account; and authorizing assessment of fees.

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

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

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

8 **§33-16G-1. Purpose.**

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

15 **§33-16G-2. Definitions.**

16 For purposes of this article:

17 (a) "Board" means the board established in section five of
18 this article.

19 (a) "Commissioner" means the West Virginia Insurance
20 Commissioner.

21 (b) "Exchange" means the West Virginia Health Benefit
22 Exchange established pursuant to section four of this article.

23 (c) "Federal Act" means the Federal Patient Protection and
24 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal
25 Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law

1 111-152), and any amendments thereto, or regulations or guidance
2 issued thereunder.

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

8 (e) "Health benefit plan" means a policy, contract,
9 certificate or agreement offered or issued by a health carrier to
10 provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for or reimburse any of the
11 costs of health care services.

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

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

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

16 (C) Liability insurance, including general liability insurance
17 and automobile liability insurance;

18 (D) Workers' compensation or similar insurance;

19 (E) Automobile medical payment insurance;

20 (F) Credit-only insurance;

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

22 (H) Other similar insurance coverage, specified in federal
23 regulations issued pursuant to Pub. L. No. 104-191, under which
24 benefits for health care services are secondary or incidental to
25 other insurance benefits.

26 (2) "Health benefit plan" also does not include the following

1 benefits if they are provided under a separate policy, certificate
2 or contract of insurance or are otherwise not an integral part of
3 the plan:

4 (A) Limited scope dental or vision benefits;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26

1 (C) Similar supplemental coverage provided to coverage under
2 a group health plan.

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

11 (g) "Levels of Coverage" means those coverage levels set forth
12 in section 1302 of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable
13 Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health
14 Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).
15 These levels shall be as follows:

16 (1) "Bronze level" means a plan shall provide a level of
17 coverage that is designed to provide benefits that are actuarially
18 equivalent to 60 percent of the full actuarial value of the
19 benefits provided under the plan.

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

24 (3) "Gold level" means a plan shall provide a level of
25 coverage that is designed to provide benefits that are actuarially
26 equivalent to 80 percent of the full actuarial value of the

1 benefits provided under the plan.

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

6 (h) "Navigator" means those persons, groups or organizations
7 set forth in section 1311(i) of the Federal Patient Protection and
8 Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal
9 Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law
10 111-152).

11 (i) "Public Health Service Act" or "PHSA" means the provisions
12 of 42 U.S.C. §300g et seq., and any amendments thereto, or
13 regulations or guidance issued thereunder.

14 (j) "Qualified dental plan" means a limited scope dental plan
15 that has been certified in accordance with this article.

16 (k) "Qualified employee" means the same as that term is used
17 in the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public
18 Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education
19 Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

20 (l) "Qualified employer" means a small employer that elects to
21 make its full-time employees eligible for one or more qualified
22 health plans offered through the SHOP Exchange, and at the option
23 of the employer, some or all of its part-time employees, provided
24 that the employer:

25 (1) Has its principal place of business in this state and
26 elects to provide coverage through the SHOP Exchange to all of its

1 eligible employees, wherever employed; or

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

5 (m) "Qualified health plan" means a health benefit plan that
6 has in effect a certification that the plan meets the criteria for
7 certification described in this article.

8 (n) "Qualified individual" means a resident of this state or
9 a state that is a party to a regional exchange with West Virginia
10 who is seeking to enroll in a qualified health plan offered to
11 individuals through the exchange, who is not incarcerated due to a
12 conviction, and who is and is reasonably expected to be for the
13 entire period for which enrollment is sought, a citizen or national
14 of the United States or an alien lawfully present in the United
15 States.

16 (o) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the United States
17 Department of Health and Human Services.

18 (p) "SHOP Exchange" means the Small Business Health Options
19 Program established under this article.

20 (q) "Small employer" means an employer that employed an
21 average of not more than fifty employees during the preceding
22 calendar year. An employer that makes enrollment in qualified
23 health plans available to its employees through the SHOP Exchange
24 and that would cease to be a small employer by reason of an
25 increase in the number of its employees, shall continue to be
26 treated as a small employer for purposes of this article as long as

1 it continuously makes enrollment through the SHOP Exchange
2 available to its employees. The board created in section five of
3 this article has the authority to modify the maximum number of
4 employees that constitute a small employer up to one hundred
5 employees pursuant to the provisions of section 1304(b)(2) of the
6 Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-
7 148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education
8 Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

9 **§33-16G-3. Establishment of exchange.**

10 (a) There is established within the Office of the Insurance
11 Commissioner an entity known as the West Virginia Health Benefit
12 Exchange. This is a governmental entity of the state.

13 (b) The exchange shall:

14 (1) Facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health
15 plans;

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

19 (3) Meet the requirements of this article and any emergency
20 and legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

21 (c) The exchange may accept gifts, grants and bequests,
22 contract with other persons, and enter into memoranda of
23 understanding with other governmental agencies to carry out any of
24 its functions, including agreements with other states to perform
25 joint administrative functions. The provisions of article three,
26 chapter five-a of this code relating to the Purchasing Division of

1 the Department of Administration do not apply to these contracts.
2 The exchange may not enter into contracts with any health insurance
3 carrier or an affiliate of a health insurance carrier.

4 (d) The exchange may enter into information-sharing agreements
5 with federal and state agencies and other state exchanges to carry
6 out its responsibilities under this article, provided such
7 agreements include adequate protections with respect to the
8 confidentiality of the information to be shared and comply with all
9 state and federal laws and regulations.

10 **§33-16G-4. Duties of exchange.**

11 (a) The exchange shall begin to make qualified health plans
12 available to qualified individuals and qualified employers
13 beginning no later than January 1, 2014, and it may not make
14 available any health benefit plan that is not a qualified health
15 plan: *Provided*, That the exchange shall allow a health carrier to
16 offer a plan that provides limited scope dental benefits meeting
17 the requirements of section 9832(c)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue
18 Code of 1986 through the exchange, either separately or in
19 conjunction with a qualified health plan, if the plan provides
20 pediatric dental benefits meeting the requirements of section
21 1302(b)(1)(J) of the federal act.

22 (b) The exchange shall, consistent with any applicable
23 guidelines issued by the secretary and under the supervision of the
24 board:

25 (1) Implement procedures for the certification,
26 recertification and decertification of health benefit plans as

- 1 qualified health plans;
- 2 (2) Provide for the operation of a toll-free telephone hotline
3 to respond to requests for assistance;
- 4 (3) Provide for enrollment periods;
- 5 (4) Maintain an Internet website and a toll-free telephone
6 line through which enrollees and prospective enrollees of qualified
7 health plans may obtain standardized comparative information on
8 such plans;
- 9 (5) Assign a rating to each qualified health plan offered
10 through the exchange in accordance with the criteria developed by
11 the secretary and determine each qualified health plan's level of
12 coverage;
- 13 (6) Use a standardized format for presenting health benefit
14 options in the exchange;
- 15 (7) Inform individuals of eligibility requirements for the
16 Medicaid program, the Children's Health Insurance Program or any
17 applicable state or local public program, and provide for the
18 enrollment of any individual determined to be eligible for any such
19 program;
- 20 (8) Establish and make available by electronic means a
21 calculator to determine the actual cost of coverage after
22 application of any applicable premium tax credit or cost-sharing
23 reduction;
- 24 (9) Establish a SHOP Exchange through which qualified
25 employers may access coverage for their employees;
- 26 (10) Grant a certification attesting that an individual is

1 exempt from the individual responsibility requirement or from the
2 penalty imposed by federal law;

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

5 (A) Was issued a certification under subdivision (10) of this
6 subsection;

7 (B) Was an employee who was determined to be eligible for the
8 premium tax credit under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code
9 but who was determined to be eligible for the premium tax credit
10 under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 because
11 either the employer did not provide minimum essential coverage or
12 the employer provided the minimum essential coverage, but it was
13 determined under section 36B(c) (2) (C) of the Internal Revenue Code
14 to either be unaffordable to the employee or not provide the
15 required minimum actuarial value;

16 (C) Notifies the Exchange that he or she has changed
17 employers; and

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

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

24 (13) Perform duties required of the exchange by the Secretary
25 or the Secretary of the Treasury related to determining eligibility
26 for premium tax credits, reduced cost-sharing or individual

1 responsibility requirement exemptions;

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

5 (A) Educate the public about the availability of qualified
6 health plans and of premium tax credits and cost-sharing
7 reductions;

8 (B) Distribute fair and impartial information concerning
9 enrollment in qualified health plans;

10 (C) Facilitate enrollment in qualified health plans;

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

16 (E) Provide information in a manner that is culturally and
17 linguistically appropriate to the needs of the population being
18 served by the exchange;

19 (15) Review the rate of premium growth within the exchange and
20 outside the exchange, and consider the information in developing
21 recommendations on whether to continue limiting qualified employer
22 status to small employers;

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

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

3 (18) Meet the following financial integrity requirements:

4 (A) Keep an accurate accounting of all activities, receipts
5 and expenditures and annually submit to the secretary, the
6 Governor, the commissioner and the Legislature a report concerning
7 such accountings:

8 (B) Fully cooperate with any investigation conducted by the
9 secretary pursuant to the secretary's authority under the Federal
10 Act and allow the secretary, in coordination with the Inspector
11 General of the United States Department of Health and Humans
12 Services, to:

13 (i) Investigate the affairs of the exchange;

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

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

17 (C) In carrying out its activities under this article, not use
18 any funds intended for the administrative and operational expenses
19 of the exchange for staff retreats, promotional giveaways,
20 excessive executive compensation or promotion of federal or state
21 legislative and regulatory modifications.

22 (c) Prior to 2016, the requirements of this section are
23 contingent with the availability of sufficient funding, and in the
24 event of a decrease in anticipated funding from the federal
25 government or other sources, the board may reassess the feasibility
26 of meeting each of the requirements listed in this section and make

1 appropriate adjustments to the functions of the exchange as are
2 deemed necessary.

3 **§33-16G-5. Establishment of governing board of the exchange.**

4 (a) The exchange shall operate subject to the supervision and
5 control of a governing board. The powers conferred upon the board
6 by this article and the carrying out of its purposes and duties
7 shall be considered to be essential governmental functions and for
8 a public purpose.

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

10 (1) Four voting *ex officio* members: The Commissioner, who
11 shall serve as the board's chairperson; the Commissioner of the
12 West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services; the Director of the West
13 Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program; and the Chair of the
14 West Virginia Health Care Authority. *Ex officio* members may
15 designate a representative to serve in his or her place;

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

20 (3) One person to represent the interests of payers who is
21 selected by majority vote of an advisory group comprising
22 representatives of the ten carriers with the highest health
23 insurance premium volume in this state in the preceding calendar
24 year, as certified by the commissioner. Beginning in 2014, the
25 advisory group shall be comprised only of representatives of those
26 carriers that are offering qualified plans in the exchange

1 regardless of premium volume: *Provided*, That the member selected
2 pursuant to this paragraph may not be an employee of a carrier or
3 an affiliate of a carrier eligible to select such member; and

4 (4) One person to represent the interests of health care
5 providers selected by the majority vote of an advisory group
6 comprised of a representative of each of the following: West
7 Virginia Association of Free Clinics, West Virginia Hospital
8 Association, West Virginia State Medical Association, West Virginia
9 Primary Care Association, West Virginia Nurses Association, West
10 Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia Academy of
11 Family Physicians, West Virginia Pharmacists Association, West
12 Virginia Dental Association, West Virginia Behavioral Health Care
13 Providers, West Virginia Chiropractic Society, West Virginia
14 Optometric Association, West Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
15 and a full-time director of a county or regional health department
16 selected by all full-time directors of all county or regional
17 health departments.

18 (5) Selection of board members pursuant to paragraphs (3) and
19 (4) of this subdivision shall be conducted in a manner and at such
20 times designated by the commissioner acting as chair of the board.

21 (6) Each member appointed pursuant to paragraph (2) of of this
22 section or selected pursuant to paragraph (3) or (4) of this
23 subsection shall serve a term of two years and is eligible to be
24 reappointed. Any appointed or selected member whose term has
25 expired may continue to serve until either he or she has been
26 reappointed or his or her successor has been duly appointed or

1 selected.

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

3 (d) Members of the board are not entitled to compensation for
4 services performed as members but are entitled to reimbursement for
5 all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the
6 performance of their duties.

7 (e) Seven members of the board constitute a quorum, and the
8 affirmative vote of six members is necessary for any action taken
9 by vote of the board. No vacancy in the membership of the board
10 impairs the rights of a quorum by such vote to exercise all the
11 rights and perform all the duties of the board.

12 (f) The board may employ an executive director who has overall
13 management responsibility for the exchange and such employees as
14 may be necessary. The executive director and employees of the
15 exchange shall receive a salary as provided by the board. The
16 executive director and all employees of the board are exempt from
17 the classified service and not subject to the procedures and
18 protections provided by article two, chapter six-c of this code and
19 article six, chapter twenty-nine of this code;

20 (g) The board has the authority to modify the definition of a
21 small employer as set forth in subsection (q), section two of this
22 article to provide that a small employer may mean an employer that
23 employed an average of not more than one hundred employees during
24 the preceding calendar year consistent with section 1304(b)(2) of
25 the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law
26 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education

1 Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

2 (h) The board shall make an annual report to the Governor and
3 also file it with the Joint Legislative Committee on Government and
4 Finance. The report shall summarize the activities of the exchange
5 in the preceding calendar year.

6 (i) Neither the board nor its employees are liable for any
7 obligations of the exchange. No member of the board or employee of
8 the exchange is liable and no cause of action of any nature may
9 arise against them for any act or omission related to the
10 performance of their powers and duties under this article unless
11 the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. The
12 board may provide in its bylaws or rules for indemnification of,
13 and legal representation for, its members and employees.

14 **§33-16G-6. Health benefit plan certification.**

15 (a) The exchange may certify a health benefit plan as a
16 qualified health plan if:

17 (1) The plan provides the essential health benefits package of
18 the federal act, except that the plan is not required to provide
19 essential benefits that duplicate the minimum benefits of qualified
20 dental plans if;

21 (A) the exchange has determined that at least one qualified
22 dental plan is available to supplement the plans's coverage; and

23 (B) the carrier makes prominent disclosure at the time it
24 offers the plan, in a form approved by the exchange, that the plan
25 does not provide the full range of essential pediatric benefits,
26 and that qualified dental plans providing those benefits and other

1 dental benefits not covered by the plan are offered through the
2 exchange.

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

5 (3) The plan provides at least a bronze level of coverage,
6 unless the plan is certified as a qualified catastrophic plan,
7 meets the requirements of the federal act and implementing rules
8 for catastrophic plans, and will only be offered to individuals
9 eligible for catastrophic coverage;

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

14 (5) The health carrier offering the plan:

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

17 (B) Offers at least one qualified health plan in the silver
18 level and at least one plan in the gold level through each
19 component of the exchange in which the carrier participates, where
20 "component" refers to the SHOP Exchange and the exchange for
21 individual coverage;

22 (C) Charges the same premium rate for each qualified health
23 plan without regard to whether the plan is offered through the
24 exchange and without regard to whether the plan is offered directly
25 from the carrier or through an insurance producer;

26 (D) Does not charge any cancellation fees or penalties in

1 violation of subsection (c), section five of this article; and

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

5 (6) The plan meets the requirements of certification as set
6 forth in emergency and legislative rules promulgated pursuant to
7 section eight of this article, which include, but are not limited
8 to, minimum standards in the areas of marketing practices, network
9 adequacy, essential community providers in underserved areas,
10 accreditation, quality improvement, uniform enrollment forms and
11 descriptions of coverage and information on quality measures for
12 health benefit plan performance; and

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

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

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

18 (2) Through the imposition of premium price controls by the
19 exchange; or

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

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

25 (1) Submit a justification for any premium increase before
26 implementation of that increase. The carrier shall prominently

1 post the information on its Internet website and through the toll-
2 free telephone line. The exchange shall take this information,
3 along with the information and the recommendations provided to the
4 exchange by the commissioner, into consideration when determining
5 whether to allow the carrier to make plans available through the
6 Exchange;

7 (2) Make available to the public and submit to the exchange,
8 the secretary, and the commissioner, accurate and timely disclosure
9 of the following:

10 (A) Claims payment policies and practices;

11 (B) Periodic financial disclosures;

12 (C) Data on enrollment;

13 (D) Data on disenrollment;

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

15 (F) Data on rating practices;

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

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

20 (I) Other information as determined appropriate by the
21 secretary; and

22 (3) Permit individuals to learn, in a timely manner upon the
23 request, the amount of cost-sharing, including deductibles,
24 copayments, and coinsurance, under the individual's plan or
25 coverage that the individual would be responsible for with respect
26 to the furnishing of a specific item or service by a participating

1 provider. At a minimum, this information shall be made available
2 to the individual through an Internet website, a toll-free
3 telephone line and through other means for individuals without
4 access to the Internet.

5 (d) The exchange may not exempt any health carrier seeking
6 certification of a qualified health plan, regardless of the type or
7 size of the carrier, from state licensure or solvency requirements
8 and shall apply the criteria of this section in a manner that
9 assures a level playing field between health carriers participating
10 in the exchange.

11 (e) The provisions of this article that are applicable to
12 qualified health plans also apply to the extent relevant to
13 qualified dental plans except as modified as follows:

14 (1) the carrier shall be licensed to offer dental coverage,
15 but need not be licensed to offer other health benefits;

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

23 (3) carriers may jointly offer a comprehensive plan through
24 the exchange in which the dental benefits are provided by a carrier
25 through a qualified dental plan and the other benefits are provided
26 by a carrier through a qualified health plan, provided that the

1 plans are priced separately and are also made available for
2 purchase separately at the same price.

3 **§33-16G-7. Funding; publication of costs.**

4 (a) On and after July 1, 2011, the board is authorized to
5 assess fees on health carriers licensed in this state, including
6 health carriers that do not participate in the exchange, and shall
7 establish the amount of such fees and the manner of the remittance
8 and collection of such fees in legislative rules. Fees shall be
9 based on premium volume of health insurance in this state and shall
10 be for the purpose of operation of the exchange.

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

16 **§33-16G-8. Rules.**

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

24 **§33-16G-9. Relation to other laws.**

25 Nothing in this article, and no action taken by the exchange

1 pursuant to this article, preempts or supersedes the authority of
2 the commissioner to regulate the business of insurance within this
3 state and, except as expressly provided to the contrary in this
4 article, all health carriers offering qualified health plans in
5 this state shall comply fully with all applicable health insurance
6 laws of this state and regulations adopted and orders issued by the
7 commissioner.

8 **§33-16G-10. Special revenue account created.**

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

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

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

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

- 1 (3) Fees on health carriers established by the board; and
- 2 (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.