

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 234

BY SENATORS BALDWIN, BEACH, CAPUTO, IHLENFELD,
JEFFRIES, LINDSAY, PLYMALE, ROMANO, STOLLINGS,
UNGER, AND WOELFEL

[Introduced February 11, 2021; referred
to the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and then
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §33-15-4x, relating to ensuring coverage for residents with preexisting
 3 conditions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 15. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

§33-15-4x. Preexisting condition coverage.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of any policy, contract, plan or agreement applicable to
 2 this article, no health insurance policy issued on, or after, the passage of this section may be
 3 issued in this state establishing a preexisting condition limitation: *Provided*, That the underwriting
 4 of such constricts may utilize “community rated” limitations and conditions as defined in this
 5 section.

6 (b) Once accepted for coverage, an individual or small group cannot be terminated by the
 7 insurer due to claims experience. Termination of coverage for individuals or small groups may be
 8 based only on one or more of the reasons set forth in §33-15-2b of this code.

9 (c) For the purposes of this section, “community rated” means a rating methodology in
 10 which the premium for all persons covered by a policy or contract form is the same, based on the
 11 experience of the entire pool of risks of all individuals or small groups covered by the corporation
 12 without regard to sex, age, health status, tobacco usage or occupation excluding those individuals
 13 or small groups covered by Medicare supplemental insurance.

14 (d) Coverage required under this section may not be subject to exclusions or limitations
 15 including costs which are not applied to other policies of coverage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure coverage for residents with preexisting conditions and to ensure that their costs are the same as the general population.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.