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Article 1 Premium Assistance

This article establishes a premium assistance program for the 2017 calendar year to be administered by the commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget. Eligible individuals are Minnesota residents who purchase health coverage in the individual market (through MNsure or outside of MNsure), meet program income requirements (incomes greater than 300 percent but not exceeding 800 percent of the federal poverty guidelines), are not receiving a premium tax credit, and are approved by the commissioner to receive premium assistance. For the period January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017, premium assistance equals 25 percent of the premium for coverage purchased in the individual market. For the period April 1, 2017 through the end of the calendar year, premium assistance varies by income and the availability of funding. This article also requires the legislative auditor to audit implementation of the premium assistance program and requires the commissioner of revenue to recapture premium assistance paid to ineligible individuals.

Section

1 Premium assistance program established. Directs the commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, in consultation with the commissioners of commerce and revenue, to establish and administer a premium assistance program for individuals who purchase qualified health coverage in 2017.

Provides an immediate effective date.

Section

2 **Definitions.** Defines the following terms: commissioner, eligible individual, health plan, health plan company, individual market, Internal Revenue Code, modified adjusted gross income, premium assistance, program, qualified health coverage, and qualified premium.

“Eligible individual” means a Minnesota resident who has purchased qualified health coverage for CY 2017, meets program income requirements, is not receiving a premium tax credit, and is approved by the commissioner for premium assistance.

“Qualified health coverage” means individual health coverage provided by a health plan company that is purchased through or outside of MNsure, is a qualified plan or meets the standards of a qualified plan, and is not a grandfathered plan under the Affordable Care Act.

“Qualified premium” means the premium paid for qualified health coverage by an eligible individual.

Provides an immediate effective date.

3 **Premium assistance amount.**

Subd. 1. Applications by individuals; notification of eligibility. (a) Allows eligible individuals to apply to the commissioner to receive premium assistance at any time after the purchase of qualified health coverage but no later than January 31, 2018. Requires the commissioner to prescribe the manner and form for applications and to make applications available on the agency Web site.

(b) Requires the commissioner to notify applicants of their eligibility status and any premium assistance amount.

Subd. 2. Health plan companies. (a) Requires health plan companies, by the first of each month and at other times as required by the commissioner, to provide the commissioner with an effectuated coverage list with specified information for each individual for whom it provides qualified health coverage.

(b) Requires health plan companies to notify the commissioner of coverage terminations of eligible individuals within 10 business days.

(c) Requires health plan companies to make application forms available on their Web sites and to include applications with premium notices for individual coverage.

Subd. 3. Income eligibility rules. (a) States that individuals who meet the requirements of this subdivision satisfy the income eligibility requirements of the program. Provides a definition of “poverty line.”

(b) Specifies the following income categories: category 1 (incomes greater than 300 but not exceeding 400 percent of the poverty line), category 2 (incomes greater than 400 but not exceeding 600 percent of the poverty line), and category 3 (incomes greater than 600 but not exceeding 800 percent of the poverty line). Persons with incomes less than 300 percent or greater than 800 percent of the poverty line are not eligible for the program.

Subd. 4. Determination of assistance amounts. (a) Requires the commissioner to determine premium assistance amounts so that the sum of premium assistance does not exceed the appropriation.

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- (b) Requires the commissioner to determine premium assistance amounts as follows:
- (1) for the period January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017, eligible individuals in income categories 1, 2, and 3 qualify for premium assistance equal to 25 percent of the qualified premium for effectuated coverage;
 - (2) for the period April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, provides premium assistance equal to 30 percent of the qualified premium for effectuated coverage for persons in income category 1;
 - (3) for the period April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, provides premium assistance equal to 25 percent of the qualified premium for effectuated coverage for persons in income category 2; and
 - (4) for the period April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, provides premium assistance at a level determined by the commissioner based on the availability of funding, but not to exceed 20 percent of the qualified premium for effectuated coverage, for persons in income category 3.

Subd. 5. Provision of premium assistance to eligible individuals. (a) Requires the commissioner to provide premium assistance on a monthly basis to eligible individuals and to allow eligible individuals the option of direct deposit.

(b) States that if the commissioner, for administrative reasons, is not able to provide premium assistance owed to an eligible individual for one or more months, the commissioner must include the premium assistance owed with the premium assistance payment for the first month for which the commissioner is able to provide premium assistance in a timely manner.

(c) Provides that the commissioner may require eligible individuals to document and substantiate the payment of qualified premiums.

Subd. 6. Contracting. Allows the commissioner to contract with a third-party administrator to determine eligibility for and administer premium assistance.

Subd. 7. Verification. Requires the commissioner to verify that applicants for premium assistance are Minnesota residents. Allows the commissioner to access information from the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Provides an immediate effective date.

4 **Audit and program integrity.**

Subd. 1. Audit. Requires the legislative auditor to audit implementation of the premium assistance program by the commissioner, to determine whether premium assistance payments align with the criteria in sections 2 and 3. Requires the legislative auditor to report a summary of findings to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over insurance and health by June 1, 2018.

Subd. 2. Program integrity. Requires the commissioner of revenue to ensure that only eligible individuals have received premium assistance. Requires the commissioner to review agency and tax record information to identify ineligible

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individuals who have received assistance, and to recover the amount of any premium assistance paid to an ineligible individual.

Provides an immediate effective date.

- 5** **Transfer.** Transfers \$300,500,000 in FY 2017 from the budget reserve account to the general fund.
- 6** **Appropriation.** Paragraph (a) appropriates \$285,000,000 in FY 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, to provide premium assistance. Limits administrative costs to three percent of the appropriation. States that the appropriation is one-time and available until June 30, 2018.
- Paragraph (b) appropriates \$500,000 in FY 2017 from the general fund to the legislative auditor to conduct the required audit. States that the appropriation is one-time and available until expended.

Article 2

Transition of Care Coverage

This article establishes transition of care coverage for individual market enrollees who experience an involuntary termination of coverage and appropriates money to reimburse health plan companies for costs related to transition of care coverage.

- 1** **Transition of care coverage for calendar year 2017; involuntary termination of coverage.** Provides for transition of care coverage for enrollees who experienced involuntary terminations of coverage in the individual market in 2016 and obtain coverage from a new individual health plan for 2017.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms: enrollee, health plan, health plan company, individual market, involuntary termination of coverage.

Subd. 2. Application. Specifies that the transition of care coverage provisions apply to an enrollee who experienced an involuntary termination of coverage from an individual health plan in November or December 2016, and enrolls in a new individual health plan that goes into effect in January or February 2017.

Subd. 3. Change in health plans; transition of care coverage. For eligible enrollees, requires the enrollee's new health plan company to authorize the enrollee to receive services from a provider who was in-network for the enrollee's 2016 health plan but is out of network for the enrollee's 2017 health plan. An enrollee or provider must request authorization, and authorization lasts for up to 120 days for specified conditions or for the rest of the enrollee's life if the enrollee's life expectancy is 180 days or less. Requires the commissioner of management and budget to reimburse the enrollee's new health plan company for costs attributed to authorized transition of care services. Limits reimbursements to health plan companies to the amount appropriated for this purpose, and requires health plan companies to continue to authorize transition of care services even if appropriations are not sufficient to reimburse for the cost of the service.

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Subd. 4. Limitations. Paragraph (a) establishes requirements for health care providers.

Paragraph (b) specifies that a health plan company is not required to cover a service or treatment not covered by the enrollee's health plan.

Subd. 5. Request for authorization. Allows an enrollee's health plan company to require medical records and supporting documentation to be submitted with an authorization request. Specifies information a health plan company must provide if a request for authorization is denied and if a request for authorization is granted.

- 2 **Appropriation; coverage for transition of care.** Appropriates \$15,000,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of management and budget to reimburse health plan companies for costs attributed to coverage for transition of care services. (This is a portion of the amount transferred from the budget reserve account to the general fund, according to article 1, section 5.) Allows the commissioner to use up to 3% of the appropriation for administrative expenses. Specifies that this is a one-time appropriation and is available until expended.