

June 22, 2011

Legislative Update

The 2011 Rhode Island legislative session is coming to a close. However, there is still much to be decided over the next two weeks. The budget as submitted by the House Finance Committee has been submitted and its debate will begin on Friday. There are several dozens healthcare-related pieces of legislation that the Rhode Island Business Group on Health is tracking. Included is an update on the bills that are of interest to the majority of our members.

H5201

Large Group Health Insurance

Would permit a large group or small employer, when purchasing more than one product offered by the carrier, to receive a discount of up to 1% of the premium or fees.

Status: House Corporations held for further study on February 8.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5201.pdf>

RIBGH position: neutral

H5275

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Would require coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Status: House Health and Education Committee recommended for passage. Placed on House calendar for further debate this week.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5275.pdf>

RIBGH position: against

H5276/S0770

Rhode Island All-Payer Patient-Centered Medical Home Act of 2011

Would create the Rhode Island Medical Home Act.

Status: H5276 – full House passed on 6/7, Senate Health and Human Services Committee recommended passage on 6/15. S0770 – full Senate passed on 5/25, House Corporations Committee recommended passage on 6/7.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5276.pdf>,

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0770.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

H5381

Mandated Benefits

Would require a mandated benefit review by the health insurance commissioner of any mandated benefits.

Status: House Corporations Committee held for further study on 3/22.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5381.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

H5422/S0462

Health Care Accessibility and Quality Assurance Act

Would allow health plans to implement a tiered provider network where providers will be classified into tiers based on their rates of favorable patient outcomes.

Status: H5422 – House Corporations Committee held for further study on 3/15. S0462 – full Senate passed on 5/18, referred to House Corporations Committee on 5/19

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5422.pdf>,
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0462.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

H5498/S0087

Health Benefits Exchange Act

Would establish the Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange.

Status: H5498 – House Health and Education Committee held for further study on 4/13. S0087 – full Senate passed on 4/5. Referred to House Health and Education Committee on 4/6.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5498.pdf>,
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0087.pdf>

RIBGH position: support, but there has been much discussion on the language of this bill and position could change depending on the outcome of the discussion. Not likely to see this pass this session in its current form.

H5733

Health Insurance Rate Review

Would require the health insurance commissioner to give prior written approval to a proposed change in a rate or rating formula. Would also give greater transparency to the health rate approval process.

Status: House Corporations Committee held for further study on 5/31.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5733.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

H5859/S0477

Implantable Hearing Devices

Would require health insurance providers to provide coverage for implantable hearing or restorative or assistive devices

Status: H5859 – House Health and Education Committee held for further study on 4/13. S0477 – Senate Health and Human Services held for further study on 4/13.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5859.pdf>,
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0477.pdf>

RIBGH position: against

For more information or questions, please contact Jeff Swallow at 268-2639 or jswallow@gdeb.com.