

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1407
(Representatives Berg, Keiser, Price)
(Senators Espgaard, Krebsbach, Lee)

AN ACT to provide for a cost-benefit analysis of mandated health insurance coverage of services; to provide for a legislative council study; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Health insurance mandated coverage of services - Cost-benefit analysis requirement.

1. A legislative measure mandating health insurance coverage of services or payment for specified providers of services may not be acted on by any committee of the legislative assembly unless the measure is accompanied by a cost-benefit analysis provided by the legislative council. Factors to consider in this analysis include:
 - a. The extent to which the proposed mandate would increase or decrease the cost of the service.
 - b. The extent to which the proposed mandate would increase the appropriate use of the service.
 - c. The extent to which the proposed mandate would increase or decrease the administrative expenses of insurers and the premium and administrative expenses of insureds.
 - d. The impact of the proposed mandate on the total cost of health care.
2. A majority of the members of the committee, acting through the chairman, has sole authority to determine whether a legislative measure mandates coverage of services under this section.
3. Any amendment made during a legislative session to a measure which mandates health insurance coverage of services may not be acted on by a committee of the legislative assembly unless the amendment is accompanied by a cost-benefit analysis provided by the legislative council.
4. The legislative council shall contract with a private entity, after receiving one or more recommendations from the insurance commissioner, to provide the cost-benefit analysis required by this section. The insurance commissioner shall pay the cost of the contracted services to the entity providing the services.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - REPORT BY INSURANCE COMMISSIONER ON HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATED COVERAGE OF SERVICES. The legislative council shall consider studying during the 2001-02 interim existing mandated health insurance coverage of services and the feasibility and desirability of repealing state laws mandating health insurance coverage of services. During the 2001-02 interim, the insurance commissioner shall evaluate, subject to receipt of adequate funding under section 3 of this Act, each existing health insurance coverage mandate on the basis of cost or effect on insurance premiums as these relate to the benefits and evaluate the benefits of reducing the need for future health care services due to early identification and treatment. The insurance commissioner may contract with a third party to perform the evaluations. The insurance commissioner shall present the report to the legislative council before July 1, 2002.

SECTION 3. FUNDING AUTHORITY - APPROPRIATION. The insurance commissioner may accept, receive, and expend public and private moneys, not in excess of \$250,000, made available by grant or donation to accomplish the evaluations required under section 2 of this Act and those moneys are appropriated to the insurance commissioner for these purposes for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003. Any unexpended appropriation authority to and any excess income received by the insurance commissioner under chapter 32 of the 1999 Session Laws, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, are not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and are available and may be expended by the insurance commissioner to accomplish the evaluations required under section 2 of this Act during the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003. The unexpended appropriation authority may only be spent to the extent that the expenditure does not reduce the projected transfers to the general fund under section 26.1-01-07.1 as projected by the fifty-seventh legislative assembly revenue forecast for the 2001-03 biennium.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the insurance regulatory trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$55,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the insurance commissioner for the purpose of paying for the services contracted for under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1407.

House Vote: Yeas 87 Nays 7 Absent 4

Senate Vote: Yeas 34 Nays 15 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State