

programs administered by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, or programs administered by local education agencies. It is further the intent of the Legislature to preserve benefits available to the recipients of these programs, including dental, vision, and mental health benefits.

SEC. 2. Part 8.7 (commencing with Section 2120) is added to Division 2 of the Labor Code, to read:

PART 8.7. EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

CHAPTER 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE

2120. This part shall be known and may be cited as the Health Insurance Act of 2003.

2120.1. (a) Large employers, as defined in Section 2122.3, shall comply with the provisions of this part applicable to large employers commencing on January 1, 2006.

(b) Medium employers, as defined in Section 2122.4, shall comply with the provisions of this part applicable to medium employers commencing on January 1, 2007, except that those employers with at least 20 employees but no more than 49 employees are not required to comply with the provisions of this part unless a tax credit is enacted that is available to those employers with at least 20 employees but no more than 49 employees. The tax credit shall be 20 percent of net cost to the employer of the fee owed under Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2140). "Net cost" means the dollar amount of the employer fee or the credit consistent with Section 2160.1 reduced by the employee share of that fee or credit and further reduced by the value of state and federal tax deductions.

2120.2. It is the purpose of this part to ensure that working Californians and their families are provided health care coverage.

2120.3. This part shall not be construed to diminish any protection already provided pursuant to collective bargaining agreements or employer-sponsored plans that are more favorable to the employees than the health care coverage required by this part.

CHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

2122. Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions set forth in this chapter shall govern the construction and meaning of the terms and phrases used in this part.

2122.1. “Dependent” means the spouse, domestic partner, minor child of a covered enrollee, or child 18 years of age and over who is dependent on the enrollee, as specified by the board. “Dependent” does not include a dependent who is provided coverage by another employer or who is an eligible enrollee as a consequence of that dependent’s employment status.

2122.2. “Enrollee” means a person who works at least 100 hours per month for any individual employer and has worked for that employer for three months. The term includes sole proprietors or partners of a partnership, if they are actively engaged at least 100 hours per month in that business.

2122.3. “Large employer” means a person, as defined in Section 7701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, or public or private entity employing for wages or salary 200 or more persons to work in this state.

2122.4. “Medium employer” means a person, as defined in Section 7701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, or public or private entity employing for wages or salary at least 20 but no more than 199 persons to work in this state.

2122.5. “Small employer” means a person, as defined in Section 7701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, or public or private entity employing for wages or salary at least 2 but no more than 19 persons to work in this state.

2122.6. “Employer” means an employing unit as defined in Section 135 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, that is either a large employer or medium employer, as defined in Sections 2122.3 and 2122.4. For purposes of this part, an employer shall include all of the members of a controlled group of corporations. A “controlled group of corporations” means controlled group of corporations as defined in Section 1563(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, except that “more than 50 percent” shall be substituted for “at least 80 percent” each place it appears in Section 1563(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code and the determination shall be made without regard to Sections 1563(a)(4) and 1563(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code.

2122.7. “Principal employer” means the employer for whom an enrollee works the greatest number of hours in any month.

2122.8. “Wages” means wages as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 200 paid directly to an individual by his or her employer.

2122.9. “Fund” means the State Health Purchasing Fund created pursuant to Section 2210.

2122.10. “Program” means the State Health Purchasing Program, which includes a purchasing pool providing health care coverage for enrollees, and, if applicable, their dependents, which will be financed by fees paid by employers and contributions by enrollees.

2122.11. “Board” means the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board.

2122.12. “Fee” means the fee as determined in Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2140).

CHAPTER 3. STATE HEALTH PURCHASING PROGRAM

2130. The State Health Purchasing Program is hereby created. The program shall be managed by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, which shall have those powers granted to the board with respect to the Healthy Families Program under Section 12693.21 of the Insurance Code, except that the emergency regulation authority referenced in subdivision (o) of that section shall only be in effect for this program from the effective date of this part until three years after the requirements of this program are in effect for large and medium employers as provided in Section 2120.1.

2130.1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the board shall have authority and fiduciary responsibility for the administration of the program, including sole and exclusive fiduciary responsibility over the assets of the fund. The board shall also have sole and exclusive responsibility to administer the program in a manner that will assure prompt delivery of benefits and related services to the enrollees, and, if applicable, dependents, including sole and exclusive responsibility over contract, budget, and personnel matters. Nothing in this section shall preclude legislative or state auditor oversight over the program.

2130.2. The board shall arrange coverage for enrollees, and, if applicable, dependents eligible under this part by establishing and maintaining a purchasing pool. The board shall negotiate contracts with those health care service plans and health insurers that choose to participate for the benefit package described in this part and shall not self-insure or partially self-insure the health care benefits under this part.

2130.3. The health care benefits coverage provided to enrollees, and, if applicable, dependents, shall be equivalent to the coverage required under subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 2160.1.

2130.4. The program shall be funded by employer fees and enrollee contributions as described in this part. The board shall administer the program in a manner that assures that the fees and enrollee contributions collected pursuant to this part are sufficient to fund the program, including administrative costs.

CHAPTER 4. EMPLOYER FEE

2140. Except as otherwise provided in this part, every large employer and every medium employer shall pay a fee as specified in this chapter.

2140.1. The board shall establish the level of the fee by determining the total amount necessary to pay for health care for all enrollees, and, if applicable, their dependents eligible for the program. In setting the fee the board may include costs associated with the administration of the fund, including those costs associated with collection of the fee and its enforcement by the Employment Development Department. The program implemented pursuant to this part shall be fully supported by the fees and enrollee contributions collected pursuant to this part. The fees and enrollee contributions collected pursuant to this part shall not be used for any purpose other than providing health coverage for enrollees and, if applicable, their dependents, as well as costs associated with the administration of the fund and with collection of the fee and its enforcement by the Employment Development Department.

2140.2. The board shall provide notice to the Employment Development Department of the amount of the fee in a time and manner that permits the Employment Development Department to provide notice to all employers of the estimated fee for the budget