

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 51

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ONDER.

Pre-filed December 1, 2014, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0574S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 1.330, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to prohibiting governments from compelling individuals to purchase health insurance and participate in health care systems.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 1.330, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted
2 in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 1.330 and 1.334, to read as follows:

1.330. 1. No law or rule shall compel, directly or indirectly, any person,
2 employer, or health care provider to participate in any health care system.

3 2. A person or employer may pay directly for lawful health care services
4 and shall not be required by law or rule to pay penalties or fines for paying
5 directly for lawful health care services. A health care provider may accept direct
6 payment for lawful health care services and shall not be required by law or rule
7 to pay penalties or fines for accepting direct payment from a person or employer
8 for lawful health care services.

9 3. Subject to reasonable and necessary rules that do not substantially
10 limit a person's options, the purchase or sale of health insurance in private health
11 care systems shall not be prohibited by law or rule.

12 4. This section does not:

13 (1) Affect which health care services a health care provider or hospital is
14 required to perform or provide;

15 (2) Affect which health care services are permitted by law;

16 (3) Prohibit care provided under workers' compensation as provided under
17 state law;

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18 (4) Affect laws or regulations in effect as of January 1, 2010;
19 (5) Affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent
20 that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or
21 employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care
22 provider or hospital for accepting direct payment from a person or employer for
23 lawful health care services.

24 5. As used in this section **and section 1.334**, the following terms shall
25 mean:

26 (1) "Compel", any penalties or fines;

27 (2) "Direct payment or pay directly", payment for lawful health care
28 services without a public or private third party, not including an employer,
29 paying for any portion of the service;

30 (3) **"Exchange" or "health insurance exchange", shall mean either**
31 **a state-based health benefit exchange or a federally facilitated health**
32 **benefit exchange as those terms are defined in section 376.1186;**

33 (4) "Health care system", any public or private entity whose function or
34 purpose is the management of, processing of, enrollment of individuals for or
35 payment for, in full or in part, health care services or health care data or health
36 care information for its participants;

37 (5) **"Health insurance issuer" or "issuer", shall have the same**
38 **meaning ascribed to it in 42 U.S.C. Section 300gg-91, and shall include**
39 **health carriers as defined in section 376.1350;**

40 [(4)] (6) "Lawful health care services" or **"health care services"**, any
41 health-related service or treatment to the extent that the service or treatment is
42 permitted or not prohibited by law or regulation that may be provided by persons
43 or businesses otherwise permitted to offer such services; [and]

44 (7) **"Mode of securing", to purchase directly or on credit or by**
45 **trade, or to contract for third-party payment by insurance or other**
46 **legal means authorized by the state of Missouri, or to apply for or**
47 **accept employer or government sponsored health care benefits under**
48 **such conditions as may legally be required as a condition of such**
49 **benefits, or any combination of the same;**

50 (8) **"Patient Protection Affordable Care Act" or "federal health**
51 **care act", the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,**
52 **Public Law 111-148, as amended by the federal Health Care and**
53 **Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, and any**

54 amendments thereto, or regulations or guidance issued under such
55 federal acts; and

56 [(5)] (9) "Penalties or fines", any civil or criminal penalty or fine, tax,
57 salary or wage withholding or surcharge or any named fee with a similar effect
58 established by law or rule by a government-established, -created or -controlled
59 agency that is used to punish or discourage the exercise of rights protected under
60 this section or section 1.334.

1.334. 1. As a guide to the interpretation and application of
2 section 1.330 and this section, the public policy of this state is declared
3 to be as follows:

4 (1) The power to require or regulate a person's choice in the
5 mode of securing health care services, or to impose a penalty related
6 thereto, is not found in the Constitution of the United States of
7 America, and is therefore a power reserved to the people pursuant to
8 the Ninth Amendment, and to the several states pursuant to the Tenth
9 Amendment. The state of Missouri hereby exercises its sovereign power
10 to declare the public policy of the state of Missouri regarding the right
11 of all persons residing in this state in choosing the mode of securing
12 health care services;

13 (2) It is hereby declared that the public policy of the state of
14 Missouri, consistent with our constitutionally recognized and
15 inalienable rights of liberty, is that every person within the state of
16 Missouri is and shall be free to choose or decline to choose any mode
17 of securing health care services without penalty or threat of penalty;

18 (3) The policy stated herein shall not be applied to impair any
19 right of contract related to the provision of health care services to any
20 person or group.

21 2. The general assembly makes the following findings:

22 (1) The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
23 preserves certain traditional state powers to regulate health insurance,
24 and grants new powers to states, that permit Missouri to enforce the
25 public policy set forth in sections 1.330 and this section in a manner
26 consistent with, and indeed expressly provided for by, federal law;

27 (2) Sections 1311 and 1321 of the Patient Protection and
28 Affordable Care Act grant Missouri the option of operating a health
29 insurance exchange, or allowing the federal government to create

30 one. Section 1412 of the federal health care act authorizes payments to
31 health insurance issuers that result directly or indirectly in penalties
32 against Missouri employers and residents, contrary to the public policy
33 set forth in section 1.330 and this section. In certain cases, those
34 penalties would be levied against Missouri employers and residents
35 who refused to purchase health insurance that violates their deeply
36 held religious beliefs. Under the plain terms of Section 1401 of the
37 federal health care act, the payments that result in penalties against
38 Missouri employers and residents become available only if Missouri
39 chooses to operate a health insurance exchange. Facilitating these
40 payments and the enforcement of penalties against employers and
41 individuals is a key function of a state-funded or state-based health
42 insurance exchange. Section 1555 of the federal health care act
43 protects the right of health insurance issuers not to accept such
44 payments;

45 (3) A final rule issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service
46 attempts to offer those payments, and therefore to penalize Missouri
47 employers and residents contrary to the public policy set forth in
48 section 1.330 and this section, irrespective of whether the state of
49 Missouri elects to operate a health insurance exchange. As such, this
50 federal rule would deny the state of Missouri its power, granted by
51 Congress, to enforce the public policy set forth in section 1.330 and this
52 section by declining to operate a health insurance exchange. This rule
53 denies the sovereignty of the state of Missouri, and is contrary to
54 federal law and congressional intent;

55 (4) The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act recognizes
56 the states' traditional powers to license and regulate health insurance
57 carriers. Section 1311(e) of the federal health care act permits states
58 that operate health insurance exchanges to exclude certain health
59 plans. Section 1301(a) reserves for all states, regardless of whether
60 they operate a health insurance exchange, the power to exclude health
61 insurance issuers from participation if such issuers are not "licensed
62 and in good standing to offer health insurance coverage in [the] State."
63 Section 1321(d) of the federal health care act, titled "No Interference
64 with State Regulatory Authority," expressly provides that the act
65 preempts only those state laws that "that . . . prevent the application of

66 the provisions of this title." Section 1311(k) of the federal health care
67 act preempts only those state laws "that conflict with or prevent the
68 application of regulations promulgated by the Secretary" of the U.S.
69 Department of Health and Human Services;

70 (5) Subsection 4 of this section asserts only those state powers
71 that Congress has expressly recognized or granted through the Patient
72 Protection and Affordable Care Act. Enforcement of subsection 4 of
73 this section therefore does not conflict with or prevent the application
74 of any provisions of, or regulations promulgated under, the Patient
75 Protection and Affordable Care Act;

76 (6) The federal government may, to the extent permitted by the
77 U.S. Constitution, amend federal law at any time to preempt these
78 powers that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act reserves
79 and grants to the state of Missouri.

80 3. No public official, employee, or agent of the state of Missouri
81 or any of its political subdivisions, nor any law or rule, shall act to
82 impose, collect, enforce, or effectuate, directly or indirectly, any
83 penalty in the state of Missouri that violates the public policy set forth
84 in this section or section 1.330. It violates the public policy set forth in
85 this section for any such individuals, laws, or rules to implement or
86 operate a health insurance exchange under the federal Patient
87 Protection and Affordable Care Act.

88 4. If a health insurance issuer operating in the state of Missouri
89 accepts any remuneration that may result in the imposition of penalties
90 contrary to the public policy set forth in this section or section 1.330,
91 such issuer's license to transact business in the state of Missouri shall
92 be suspended by the director of the department of insurance, financial
93 institutions and professional registration immediately and until such
94 time as the issuer represents it has returned that remuneration to its
95 source and will decline any such future remuneration. Such
96 suspensions shall not be construed as impairing the right of contract.

97 5. The attorney general shall take such action as is provided in
98 this subsection in the defense or prosecution of rights protected under
99 section 1.330 and this section. It is the duty of the attorney general to
100 seek injunctive and any other appropriate relief as expeditiously as
101 possible to preserve the rights and property of the residents of the

102 state of Missouri, and to defend as necessary the state of Missouri, its
103 officials, employees, and agents in the event that any law or regulation
104 violating the public policy set forth in section 1.330 and this section, is
105 enacted by any government, subdivision, or agency thereof.

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