

May 19, 2010

H 1898. UNIVERSAL CHILDHOOD VACCINE PROGRAM. Filed 5/19/10. *PERTAINING TO THE UNIVERSAL CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILDHOOD VACCINE ASSOCIATION; TO PROVIDE FOR ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH INSURERS FOR THE PURCHASE, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CERTAIN VACCINES; AND TO ESTABLISH THE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION ACCOUNT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY COMMISSION.*

Enacts new Part 2A, Universal Childhood Immunization Program (Program) to Article 6 of GS Chapter 130A to provide for the purchase, storage, distribution, and quality assurance of certain vaccines, as defined in the act. Establishes the nonprofit NC Childhood Vaccine Association (Association) to collect and remit funds from health insurers for the cost of vaccines provided to insured children in the state under the Universal Childhood Immunization Program. The Association is made up of all insurers issuing or renewing health benefit plans in the state and all third-party administrators conducting business on behalf of the state's residents or on behalf of health care providers and facilities providing health care in the state. Establishes the 11 member Association Board of Directors (Board) and provides the Board's powers and duties. Sets requirements for (1) determining the amount of each insurer's assessment, (2) procedures for notification, (3) time periods for payments, (4) charging interim assessments for newly recommended vaccines or other vaccine changes, and (5) submitting reports on insurers failing to pay the assessments. Requires the Association to pay the difference when the total calculated cost to be received through assessments is less than the total nonfederal program costs, with the funds to be deposited into the Childhood Immunization Account. Also provides that the aggregate amount raised by the Association in any year may be reduced by any surpluses from prior years.

Establishes the Childhood Immunization Account made up of funds from annual assessments collected by the Board. Limits the use of funds to the purchase, storage, distribution, and quality assurance of vaccines and other authorized administrative expenses.

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to include in the Program vaccines for childhood immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and designated for coverage by the federal Vaccine for Children Program; requires physicians providing these vaccines to participate in the Program. Requires DHHS to determine the costs for the purchase, storage, distribution, quality assurance, and other administrative expenses for the vaccines by October 1, 2010, and provide that information to the Board. Requires health insurers to remit payment of the assessment required by the Board for their share of total amount needed to fund nonfederal program costs. Requires doctors and clinics ordering state supplied vaccines to have billing mechanisms and practices that accurately track vaccines delivered. Urges the use of state supplied vaccinations for childhood immunizations and requires health insurers to deny claims for vaccine serum costs when the serum providing similar protection is available from state supplied vaccines.

Establishes reporting requirements for health insurers. Requires health care providers to also provide a copy of claim forms for administered vaccines to the Board at the same time a claim is submitted to the insurer.

Establishes Board reporting requirements and provides that Board members and health care providers are not liable for lawful action taken while performing their duties under this new Part.

Intro. by England.

GS 130A