

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1993 SESSION

CHAPTER 547
SENATE BILL 1148

AN ACT TO AFFECT THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES'
COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR MEDICAL PLAN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 135-40.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 135-40.4. Benefits in general.

(a) In the event a covered person, as a result of accidental bodily injury, disease or pregnancy, incurs covered expenses, the Plan will pay benefits up to the amounts described in G.S. 135-40.5 through G.S. 135-40.9.

The Plan is divided into two parts. The first part includes certain benefits which are not subject to a deductible or coinsurance. The second part is a comprehensive plan and includes those benefits which are subject to both a two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) deductible for each covered individual to an aggregate maximum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) per family and coinsurance of 80%/20%. There is a limit on out-of-pocket expenses under the second part.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article, the Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees of the Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive Major Medical Plan may ~~begin the process of negotiating prospective rates of charges that are to be allowed under the Plan with preferred providers of institutional and professional medical care and services.~~ contract with providers of institutional and professional medical care and services to established preferred provider networks. The design, adoption, and implementation of such preferred provider contracts and networks are not subject to the requirements of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, provided that for any hospital preferred provider network all hospitals will have an opportunity to contract with the Plan if they meet the contract requirements. The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees shall, under the provisions of G.S. 135-39.5(12), pursue such preferred provider contracts on a timely basis and shall make ~~monthly~~ reports as requested to the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Employee Hospital and Medical Benefits on its progress in negotiating such ~~prospective rates for allowable charges.~~ preferred provider contracts. The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees shall implement a refined diagnostic-related grouping or diagnostic-related grouping-based reimbursement system for hospitals as soon as practicable, but no later than January 1, 1995.

(b) As used in this section the term 'preferred provider contracts or networks' includes, but is not limited to, a refined diagnostic-related grouping or diagnostic-related grouping-based system of reimbursement for hospitals."

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993, and shall not apply to any litigation or administrative proceedings pending prior to that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 24th day of July, 1993.

Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Daniel Blue, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives