

17:48D-9.1 to 17:48D-9.3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 17:48D-9.1 to 17:48D-9.3

(Dental plans - allow employee
to choose dentist - under
"Dental plan organization act")

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 143

Bill No: S786

Sponsor(s): Bornheimer and others

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Banking and Insurance

Senate: Labor, Industry and Professions

Amended during passage: Yes // Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly: March 14, 1983

Senate: Sept. 23, 1982

Date of Approval: April 20, 1983

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement:	Yes	//
Committee statement:	Assembly	Yes //
	Senate	Yes //
Fiscal Note:	///	No
Veto Message:	///	No
Message on Signing:	///	No yes
Following were printed:		
Reports:	///	No
Hearings:	///	No

4-20-83

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 786

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1982 SESSION

By Senators BORNHEIMER, HURLEY, COSTELLO and
McMANIMON

A SUPPLEMENT to the "Dental Plan Organization Act," approved
February 27, 1980 (P. L. 1979, c. 478; C. 17:48D-1 et seq.).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Each employer or other organization which employs or has
2 25 or more employees or members during the full preceding
3 calendar year and which contributes to a dental plan organization
4 contract which restricts the covered persons in selecting the pro-
5 viders of dental services to a single provider or limited number of
6 providers, shall also offer its employees and their eligible depen-
7 dents and members and members' eligible dependents at the time a
8 dental benefits plan is offered or renewed the option of selecting
9 alternative coverage which permits covered persons to obtain
10 dental services from any licensed ***[dental facility]*** **dentist**.

1 2. An employer or other organization shall be required to pay for
2 or contribute towards the provision of alternative coverage an
3 amount equal to the premium or cost which it pays or contributes
4 to the dental plan organization contract which limits the number
5 of providers of dental services.

1 3. Within 120 days of the effective date of this act, the Commis-
2 sioner of the Department of Insurance shall promulgate rules
3 and regulations necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act,
4 including procedures for notice to covered persons, employers and
5 other organizations of the provisions of this act.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

***—Senate committee amendment adopted March 1, 1982.**

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5 other organizations of the provisions of this act.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

Many employers and other organizations provide their employees
with coverage for dental services which restrict the covered persons

to a single dentist or group of dentists. This bill requires that persons covered by a dental plan organization contract be offered the option of selecting their dentists. The employers are required to pay the same contribution for premiums for the alternative coverage.

ASSEMBLY BANKING AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 786

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 31, 1983

Senate Bill No. 786 requires any employer with 25 or more employees, or any other organization with 25 or more members, during the preceding calendar year, which provides closed panel dental service coverage under a contract issued pursuant to the "Dental Plan Organization Act" (P. L. 1979, c. 478; C. 17:48D-1 et seq.), to offer its employees or members, and their dependents, the option of selecting a dentist of their own choosing. The employer or organization is required to pay, for such alternative coverage, an amount equal to the premium or cost of the closed panel dental service coverage.

"Closed panel" plans are arrangements whereby the employer or organization, or the health insurer or dental service organization, limits the service providers to a panel of dentists designated by the dental service plan. Closed panel plans may include a prior agreement by participating dentists to provide dental services at a negotiated rate. This bill prohibits the aforementioned employers or other organizations from limiting their employees or members to plan designated dentist(s).

SENATE LABOR, INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 786

with Senate committee amendment

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 1, 1982

This legislation provides that every employer which employs 25 or more employees subscribing to a dental plan organization contract which restricts members of the group in the selection of a dentist must offer the employees the option of selecting alternative coverage which would permit them to go to a dentist of their own choosing. The employer would not be required to pay any amount greater than would be paid under the restricted plan.

Some dental plans provided by the employers are "closed panel" arrangements, whereby the employer or the health insurer makes an agreement with a dentist or dentists to provide services at an agreed-upon price. This legislation would prohibit employers from requiring that employees use the services of the employer-selected dentist and would permit them to select an alternative form of dental care.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

CONTACT: PAUL WOLCOTT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1983

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed the following bills:

S-785, S-786, S-787, and S-788, all sponsored by State Senator James W. Bornheimer, (D-Middlesex), which provide that employees covered by dental health insurance plans shall be free to choose his or her own dentist. The four bills are identical in most respects, with the difference between them being that S-785 applies to non-group health insurance plans, S-786 applies to the "Dental Plan Organization," S-787 applies to dental plan service corporation contracts and S-788 applies to group health insurance contracts.

S-489, sponsored by State Senator Herman T. Costello, (D-Burlington), which increases the fine for driving without insurance and eliminates the mandatory three month jail sentence on a subsequent conviction for driving without insurance. The mandatory jail sentence is replaced with a discretionary three to six month jail term and a mandatory 30 day community service sentence.

S-3075, sponsored by State Senator Gerald R. Stockman, (D-Mercer), which amends the New Jersey Building Authority Act to authorize the Authority to undertake projects which may consist of buildings covered under the Horizontal Property Act and the Condominium Act, and to allow the State to participate in sale-lease-back financing on future State buildings.

~~SECRET~~