

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes 8-12-09

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

"Governor Corzine signs maternity health legislation," NewJerseyNewsroom.com, 8-13-10, <http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/healthquest/governor-corzine-signs-maternity-health-legislation>

LAW/IS 6/22/10

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2539

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman RUBEN J. RAMOS, JR.

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

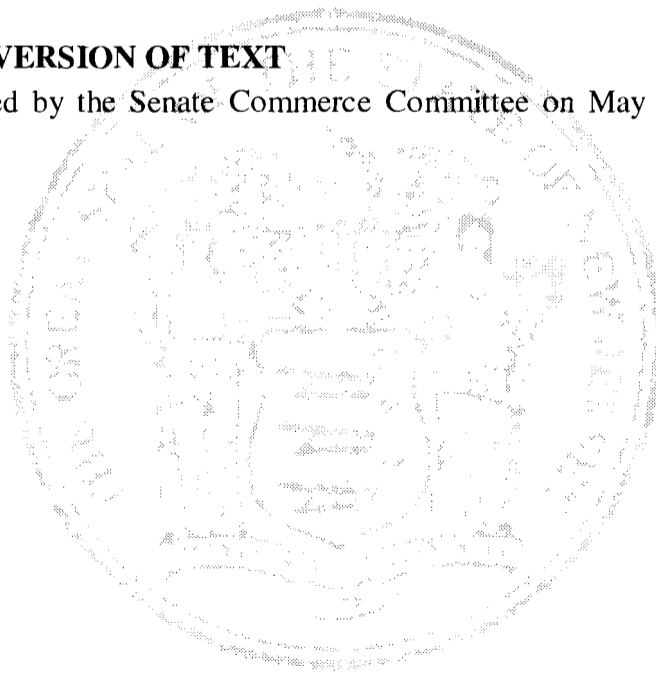
Senators Gill and Scutari

SYNOPSIS

Requires installment payments for maternity services covered by certain health benefits plans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Commerce Committee on May 14, 2009, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2009)

1 AN ACT concerning installment payments for maternity services by
2 certain health benefits plans and supplementing various parts of
3 the statutory law.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. Every individual or group hospital service corporation
9 contract that provides benefits for maternity services, and that is
10 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State or approved for
11 issuance or renewal in this State, by the Commissioner of Banking
12 and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide
13 for reimbursement in installments to an obstetrical provider licensed
14 in New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a
15 covered person's pregnancy.

16 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
17 in New Jersey" means:

18 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
19 Medical Examiners; or

20 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
21 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

22 c. This section shall apply to all hospital service corporation
23 contracts in which the hospital service corporation has reserved the
24 right to change the premium.

25
26 2. a. Every individual or group medical service corporation
27 contract that provides benefits for maternity services, and that is
28 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State, or approved for
29 issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking
30 and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide
31 for reimbursement in installments to an obstetrical provider licensed
32 in New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a
33 covered person's pregnancy.

34 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
35 in New Jersey" means:

36 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
37 Medical Examiners; or

38 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
39 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

40 c. This section shall apply to all medical service corporation
41 contracts in which the medical service corporation has reserved the
42 right to change the premium.

43
44 3. a. Every individual or group health service corporation

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 underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SCM committee amendments adopted May 14, 2009.

1 contract that provides benefits for maternity services, and that is
2 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State, or approved for
3 issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking
4 and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide
5 for reimbursement in installments to an obstetrical provider licensed
6 in New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a
7 covered person's pregnancy.

8 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
9 in New Jersey" means:

10 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
11 Medical Examiners; or

12 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
13 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

14 c. This section shall apply to all health service corporation
15 contracts in which the health service corporation has reserved the
16 right to change the premium.

17
18 4. a. Every individual health insurance policy that provides
19 benefits for maternity services, and that is delivered, issued,
20 executed or renewed in this State, or approved for issuance or
21 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and
22 Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide for
23 reimbursement in installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in
24 New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a
25 covered person's pregnancy.

26 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
27 in New Jersey" means:

28 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
29 Medical Examiners; or

30 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
31 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

32 c. This section shall apply to all individual health insurance
33 policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the
34 premium.

35
36 5. a. Every group health insurance policy that provides benefits
37 for maternity services, and that is delivered, issued, executed or
38 renewed in this State, or approved for issuance or renewal in this
39 State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the
40 effective date of this act, shall provide for reimbursement in
41 installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey for
42 maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's
43 pregnancy.

44 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
45 in New Jersey" means:

46 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
47 Medical Examiners; or

48 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
49 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

1 c. This section shall apply to all group health insurance policies
2 in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

3
4 6. a. Every individual health benefits plan that provides benefits
5 for maternity services, and that is delivered, issued, executed or
6 renewed in this State, or approved for issuance or renewal in this
7 State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the
8 effective date of this act, shall provide for reimbursement in
9 installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey for
10 maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's
11 pregnancy.

12 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
13 in New Jersey" means:

14 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
15 Medical Examiners; or

16 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
17 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

18 c. This section shall apply to all individual health benefits plans
19 in which the carrier has reserved the right to change the premium.

20
21 7. a. Every small employer health benefits plan that provides
22 benefits for maternity services, and that is delivered, issued,
23 executed or renewed in this State, or approved for issuance or
24 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and
25 Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide for
26 reimbursement in installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in
27 New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a
28 covered person's pregnancy.

29 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
30 in New Jersey" means:

31 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
32 Medical Examiners; or

33 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
34 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

35 c. This section shall apply to all small employer health benefits
36 plans in which the carrier has reserved the right to change the
37 premium.

38
39 8. a. Every certificate of authority to establish and operate a
40 health maintenance organization issued or continued in this State
41 pursuant to P.L.1973, c.337 (C.26:2J-1 et seq.), or approved for
42 issuance or renewal in this State, by the Commissioner of Banking
43 and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act, for a health
44 maintenance organization which provides benefits for maternity
45 services, shall provide for reimbursement in installments to an
46 obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey for maternity services
47 rendered during the term of a covered person's pregnancy.

48 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
49 in New Jersey" means:

1 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
2 Medical Examiners; or

3 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
4 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

5 c. This section shall apply to all enrollee agreements in which
6 the health maintenance organization has reserved the right to
7 change the schedule of charges.

8

9 9. a. Within 30 days of the effective date of this act, the State
10 Health Benefits Commission shall provide, in every health benefits
11 plan that provides for maternity services, for reimbursement in
12 installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey for
13 maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's
14 pregnancy.

15 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
16 in New Jersey" means:

17 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
18 Medical Examiners; or

19 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
20 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

21

22 '10. Within 30 days of the effective date of this act, the School
23 Employees' Health Benefits Commission shall provide, in every
24 health benefits plan that provides for maternity services, for
25 reimbursement in installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in
26 New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a
27 covered person's pregnancy.

28 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
29 in New Jersey" means:

30 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
31 Medical Examiners; or

32 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
33 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.'

34

35 '[10.] 11.' The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance shall
36 adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative
37 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate
38 the provisions of sections 1 through 8 of this act.

39

40 '[11.] 12.' This act shall take effect '[immediately] on the first
41 day of the thirteenth month next following enactment'.

1 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

2 c. This section shall apply to all enrollee agreements in which
3 the health maintenance organization has reserved the right to
4 change the schedule of charges.

5
6 9. a. Within 30 days of the effective date of this act, the State
7 Health Benefits Commission shall provide, in every health benefits
8 plan that provides for maternity services, for reimbursement in
9 installments to an obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey for
10 maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's
11 pregnancy.

12 b. For the purposes of this section, "obstetrical provider licensed
13 in New Jersey" means:

14 (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of
15 Medical Examiners; or

16 (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners
17 as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

18
19 10. The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance shall adopt
20 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
21 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the
22 provisions of sections 1 through 8 of this act.

23
24 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

26

27 *SPONSOR'S* STATEMENT

28

29 This bill provides that health insurance contracts that provide
30 benefits for maternity services shall provide for reimbursement in
31 installments to obstetrical providers licensed in New Jersey for
32 maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's
33 pregnancy.

34 Currently, most obstetrical providers receive reimbursement
35 from health insurers after delivery of a baby and not during the term
36 of a pregnancy. This bill requires health insurers to reimburse these
37 providers for maternity services in installments during the term of
38 the pregnancy. Insurers covered by the bill include: health, hospital,
39 and medical service corporations; commercial individual and group
40 health insurers; health maintenance organizations; and health
41 benefits plans issued pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health
42 Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits Programs and the
43 State Health Benefits Program.

44 This bill defines "obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey" to
45 mean: (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board
46 of Medical Examiners; or (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board
47 of Medical Examiners as a certified midwife or a certified nurse
48 midwife.

ASSEMBLY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2539

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2008

The Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2539.

This bill provides that health insurance contracts that provide benefits for maternity services shall provide for reimbursement in installments to obstetrical providers licensed in New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's pregnancy.

Currently, most obstetrical providers receive reimbursement from health insurers after delivery of a baby and not during the term of a pregnancy. This bill requires health insurers to reimburse these providers for maternity services in installments during the term of the pregnancy. Insurers covered by the bill include: health, hospital, and medical service corporations; commercial individual and group health insurers; health maintenance organizations; and health benefits plans issued pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits Programs and the State Health Benefits Program.

This bill defines "obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey" to mean: (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners; or (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2539

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2009

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably, and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 2539.

This bill, as amended, provides that certain health benefits plans that include benefits for maternity services shall provide for reimbursement in installments to obstetrical providers licensed in New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's pregnancy. The bill defines "obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey" to mean: (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners; or (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

Health benefits plans affected by the bill include: contracts, policies or plans issued by health, hospital, and medical service corporations, commercial individual and group health insurers, and health maintenance organizations; and those plans issued or provided pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits Programs, the State Health Benefits Program, and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program.

The amendments to the bill:

- add provisions to cover benefits provided pursuant to the School Employees' Health Benefits Program; and
- provide for a delayed effective date, so that the bill shall not take effect until the first day of the thirteenth month next following enactment.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1125, as amended and reported by the committee today.

1 c.337 (C.26:2J-1 et seq.), or approved for issuance or renewal in
2 this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, on or
3 after the effective date of this act, for a health maintenance
4 organization which provides benefits for maternity services, shall
5 provide reimbursement in installments for maternity services
6 rendered by an obstetrician-gynecologist during the term of a
7 covered person's pregnancy.

8 b. This section shall apply to all enrollee agreements in which
9 the health maintenance organization has reserved the right to
10 change the schedule of charges.

11
12 9. Within 30 days of the effective date of this act, the State
13 Health Benefits Commission shall provide reimbursement in
14 installments for maternity services rendered by an obstetrician-
15 gynecologist during the term of a covered person's pregnancy.

16
17 10. The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance shall adopt
18 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
19 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the
20 provisions of sections 1 through 8 of this act.

21
22 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

23
24
25 *SPONSOR'S* STATEMENT
26

27 This bill provides that health insurance contracts that provide
28 benefits for maternity services shall provide reimbursement in
29 installments for maternity services rendered by an obstetrician-
30 gynecologist during the term of a covered person's pregnancy.

31 Currently, most OB-GYN's receive reimbursement from health
32 insurers after delivery of a baby and not during the term of a
33 pregnancy. This bill requires health insurers to reimburse for
34 maternity services in installments during the term of the pregnancy.
35 Insurers covered by the bill include: health, hospital and medical
36 service corporations; commercial individual and group health
37 insurers; health maintenance organizations; health benefits plans
38 issued pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage and
39 Small Employer Health Benefits Programs and the State Health
40 Benefits Program.

41 The bill directs the Department of Banking and Insurance to
42 promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the
43 bill with respect to the various types of health benefit plans
44 regulated by the department.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1125

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2009

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably, and with committee amendments, Senate Bill No. 1125.

This bill, as amended, provides that certain health benefits plans that include benefits for maternity services shall provide for reimbursement in installments to obstetrical providers licensed in New Jersey for maternity services rendered during the term of a covered person's pregnancy. The bill defines "obstetrical provider licensed in New Jersey" to mean: (1) an obstetrician/gynecologist licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners; or (2) a midwife licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners as a certified midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

Health benefits plans affected by the bill include: contracts, policies or plans issued by health, hospital, and medical service corporations, commercial individual and group health insurers, and health maintenance organizations; and those plans issued or provided pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits Programs, the State Health Benefits Program, and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program.

The amendments to the bill:

- add provisions to cover benefits provided pursuant to the School Employees' Health Benefits Program;
- provide for a delayed effective date, so that the bill shall not take effect until the first day of the thirteenth month next following enactment; and
- conform the bill to be identical to Assembly Bill No. 2539, as amended by the committee, with certain substantive and technical changes, including providing for installment payments to "obstetrical providers licensed in New Jersey," and providing a definition of such providers to include licensed obstetricians/gynecologists and certain midwives.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2539, as amended and reported by the committee today.

Governor
HomeMeet the
GovernorGovernor's Office
Executive Staff

Cabinet

Newsroom

Boards, Commissions
and Authorities

Photo Blog

For Kids

Event Photos

Features

Press Releases

Featured Videos

Audio Clips

Newsletters

Speeches

Executive Orders

RSS Feeds

[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2009](#) > [Aug-12-09 Governor Corzine Signs Health Legislation](#)JON S. CORZINE
Governor**For Immediate Release:****Date:** August 12, 2009**For More Information:**

Robert Corrales

Phone: 609-777-2600

Governor Corzine Signs Health Legislation

Measures enhance insurance and provider services for pregnant women

NEWARK - During his visit to the Newark Community Health Center, Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed two pieces of legislation that improve a woman's access to health insurance coverage for maternity services by ensuring timely reimbursement to health providers and empowering nurse midwives to certify patient medical conditions for certain disability decisions.

"The stability of our healthcare systems is of utmost concerns to all Americans," said Governor Corzine. "These two bills that I am signing represent our continued attention toward the delivery of quality health care services, equally focusing on the patient, and those that provide these vital services."

The first bill, A-2539 /S-1125, requires health care insurance carriers to reimburse obstetrical providers in installment payments for maternity services provided over the term of a woman's pregnancy, rather than after the birth of the child. Covered payments will now occur on an on-going basis and include office visits, other pre-natal care, as well as the delivery of the baby.

"This bill is a strong step forward, and will enhance a woman's right to choose the best doctors and medical professionals offering prenatal care in New Jersey," said Senator Nia H. Gill, (D-Essex and Passaic). "Under the previous reimbursement rules, maternity care specialists would have to provide months and thousands of dollars worth of care to their patients before seeing one penny of reimbursement from the patient's insurance provider. By switching to installment payments, we can make sure medical professionals receive payment for services rendered, and expecting moms get the best care they can in the Garden State."

"Asking medical professionals to go for almost a year without getting paid borders on the absurd," said Assemblywoman Caridad Rodriguez (D-Hudson). "Allowing them to be paid on an ongoing basis is a much more equitable and fair way to handle maternity services coverage."

"We are doing more today than simply changing the way maternity service providers are paid," said Assemblyman Ruben J. Ramos Jr., (D-Hudson). "We have laid the groundwork for more enthusiastic care on the part of obstetricians and midwives, which in turn will hopefully lead to more professionals opening shop in New Jersey."

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Senator Gill and Assemblymembers Rodriguez and Ramos.

The second bill, S-2231/A-3110 adds nurse midwives to the list of medical professionals who can certify medical conditions of individuals under New Jersey's "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" and "Work First New Jersey Act."

"During a pregnancy, it is often a nurse midwife who has substantial direct contact with the mother and therefore has expert knowledge regarding a disability, or a serious health condition requiring temporary leave from work," said Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), Vice-Chairwoman of the Senate Health Committee. "It's only appropriate that licensed nurse midwives have the latitude to make these determinations."

"I want to thank Governor Corzine for expanding the ability of midwives to care for New Jersey's women," said Health Commissioner Heather Howard. "By expanding the important role of midwives as health care providers, we are improving access to critical prenatal and preconception care that helps ensure women have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby."

This is of particular importance at Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. (NCHC), a network of federally qualified health care centers, where nurse midwives have an increasingly-important role in monitoring the health of expectant mothers, and delivering pre-natal care. During the 2009 Fiscal Year, Newark received \$700,000 in State funds to expand and provide more prenatal care services to the center's service population.

"New Jersey's trained and licensed nurse midwives already are empowered to make a host of medical decisions for women, including the ability to write prescriptions," said Assemblywoman Caridad Rodriguez (D-Hudson). "Including them in the decision-making process for disability benefits in New Jersey just makes sense."

"Following an accident, surgery or prolonged illness, many women may be without easy access to a physician, except through a visit to the emergency room," said Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-Bergen). "Allowing women under the care of a nurse midwife access to many of the same services available to women under a doctor's care, therefore, becomes especially important."

Legislative sponsors of the measure include Senators Weinberg and Gordon and Assemblymembers Rodriguez and Vainieri Huttle.

###

Get our press releases via RSS at: <feed://nj.gov/governor/news/news/2009/approved/rss.xml>

Photos from Governor Corzine's public events are available at www.nj.gov/governor/news

Video from the Governor's Office is available at www.nj.gov/governor/news/video and www.youtube.com/user/jonscorzine

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#)

