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Initiative Petition for a Law to Implement Medical Loss Ratios for Dental Benefit Plans

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

An Act to Implement Medical Loss Ratios for Dental Benefit Plans

SECTION 1.

The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 176W the following chapter:-

Chapter 176X

Dental Benefit Plans

Section 1. As used in this chapter the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

"Carrier", an insurer or other entity offering dental benefit plans in the commonwealth.

"Commissioner", the commissioner of the division of insurance.

"Connector", the commonwealth health insurance connector, established by chapter 176Q.

"Dental benefit plans", any stand-alone dental plan that covers oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by any individual, general, blanket or group policy of health, accident and sickness insurance issued by an insurer licensed or otherwise authorized to transact accident and health insurance under chapter 175; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group dental medical service plan issued by a non-profit medical service corporation under chapter 176B; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group dental service plan issued by a dental service corporation organized under chapter 176E; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group dental health maintenance contract issued by a health maintenance organization organized under chapter 176G; or any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual

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or group preferred provider dental plan issued by a preferred provider arrangement organized under chapter 176I. The commissioner may, by regulation, define other dental coverage as a qualifying dental benefit plan for the purposes of this chapter.

"Self-insured customer", a self-insured group for which a carrier provides administrative services.

"Self-insured group", a self-insured or self-funded employer group health plan.

"Third-party administrator", a person or entity that, on behalf of a dental insurer or the MassHealth dental program, or purchaser of dental benefits, provides administrative services including receiving or collecting charges, contributions or premiums for, or adjusting or settling claims on or for residents of the commonwealth.

Section 2. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner may approve dental benefit policies submitted to the division of insurance for the purpose of being provided to individuals and groups. These dental benefit policies shall be subject to this chapter and may include networks that differ from those of a dental plan's overall network. The commissioner shall adopt regulations regarding eligibility criteria.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner shall require carriers offering dental benefit plans to submit information as required by the commissioner, which shall include the current and projected medical loss ratio for plans the components of projected administrative expenses and financial information, including, but not limited to: (i) underwriting, auditing, actuarial, financial analysis, treasury and investment expenses; (ii) marketing and sales expenses, including but not limited to, advertising, member relations, member enrollment and all expenses associated with producers, brokers and benefit consultants; and (iii) claims operations expenses, including, but not limited to, adjudication, appeals, settlements and expenses associated with paying claims. Unless otherwise determined by the commissioner, the following items shall be deemed to be an administrative cost expenditure for the purposes of calculating and reporting the medical loss ratio: (i) financial administration expenses; (ii) marketing and sales expenses; (iii) distribution expenses; (iv) claims operations expenses; (v) medical administration expenses, such as disease management, care

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management, utilization review and medical management activities; (vi) network operations expenses; (vii) charitable expenses; (viii) board, bureau or association fees; (ix) state and federal tax expenses, including assessments; and (x) payroll expense.

(c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, carriers offering dental benefit plans, including carriers licensed under chapters 175, 176B, 176E, 176G or 176I, shall file group product base rates and any changes to group rating factors that are to be effective on January 1 of each year, on or before July 1 of the preceding year. The commissioner shall disapprove any proposed changes to base rates that are excessive, inadequate, or unreasonable in relation to the benefits charged. The commissioner shall disapprove any change to group rating factors that is discriminatory or not actuarially sound. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.

(d) If a carrier files a base rate change under this section and the administrative expense loading component, not including taxes and assessments, increases by more than the most recent calendar year's percentage increase in the dental services consumer price index (U.S. city average, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted) or if a carrier's reported contribution to surplus exceeds 1.9 per cent or if the aggregate medical loss ratio for all plans offered under this chapter is less than the applicable percentage set forth in subsection (e), then such carrier's rate, in addition to being subject to all other provisions of this chapter, shall be presumptively disapproved as excessive by the commissioner as set forth in this subsection. If the annual aggregate medical loss ratio for all plans offered under this chapter is less than the applicable percentage set forth in subsection (e), the carrier shall refund the excess premium to its covered individuals and covered groups. A carrier shall communicate within 30 days to all individuals and groups that were covered under plans during the relevant 12-month period that such individuals and groups qualify for a refund on the premium for the applicable 12-month period or, if the individual or groups are still covered by the carrier, a credit on the premium for the subsequent 12-month period. The total of all refunds issued shall equal the amount of a carrier's earned premium that exceeds that amount necessary to achieve a medical loss ratio of the applicable percentage set forth in subsection (e), calculated using data reported by the carrier as prescribed under regulations promulgated by the commissioner. The commissioner

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may authorize a waiver or adjustment of this requirement only if it is determined that issuing refunds would result in financial impairment for the carrier.

(e) The medical loss ratio set forth in subsection (d) shall be 83 percent.

(f) If a proposed rate change has been presumptively disapproved: (i) a carrier shall communicate to all employers and individuals covered under a group product that the proposed increase has been presumptively disapproved and is subject to a hearing at the division of insurance;

(ii) the commissioner shall conduct a public hearing and shall advertise that hearing in newspapers in the cities of Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Pittsfield, Springfield, Worcester, New Bedford and Lowell, or shall notify such newspapers of the hearing; and

(iii) the attorney general may intervene in a public hearing or other proceeding under this section and may require additional information as the attorney general considers necessary to ensure compliance with this subsection. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to specify the scheduling of the hearings required under this section and to otherwise carry out this subsection (f).

(g) If the commissioner disapproves the rate submitted by a carrier the commissioner shall notify the carrier in writing no later than 45 days prior to the proposed effective date of the carrier's rate. The carrier may submit a request for hearing to the division of insurance within 10 days of such notice of disapproval. The division must schedule a hearing within 15 days of receipt. The commissioner shall issue a written decision within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing. The carrier may not implement the disapproved rates, or changes at any time unless the commissioner reverses the disapproval after a hearing or unless a court vacates the commissioner's decision.

Section 3. (a) Each carrier shall submit an annual comprehensive financial statement to the division detailing carrier costs from the previous calendar year. The annual comprehensive financial statement shall include all of the information in this section and shall be itemized, where applicable, by:

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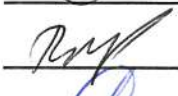
(2) 

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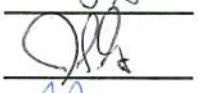
(7) 

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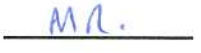
(13) 

(i) market group size, including individual; small groups of 1 to 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 25, and 26 to 50; large groups of 50 to 100, 101 to 500, 501 to 1000 and greater than 1000; and

(ii) line of business, including any stand-alone dental plan that covers oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by any individual, general, blanket or group policy of health, accident and sickness insurance issued by an insurer licensed or otherwise authorized to transact accident and health insurance under chapter 175; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group dental medical service plan issued by a non-profit medical service corporation under chapter 176B; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group dental service plan issued by a dental service corporation organized under chapter 176E; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group dental health maintenance contract issued by a health maintenance organization organized under chapter 176G; any oral surgical care, dental services, dental procedures or benefits covered by a stand-alone individual or group preferred provider dental plan issued by a preferred provider arrangement organized under chapter 176I; and stand-alone dental group health insurance plans issued by the commission under chapter 32A.

(b) The financial statement shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following information: (i) direct premiums earned, as defined in chapter 176J; direct claims incurred, as defined in said chapter 176J; (ii) medical loss ratio; (iii) number of members; (iv) number of distinct groups covered; (v) number of lives covered; (vi) realized capital gains and losses; (vii) net income; (viii) accumulated surplus; (ix) accumulated reserves; (x) risk-based capital ratio, based on a formula developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; (xi) financial administration expenses, including underwriting, auditing, actuarial, financial analysis, treasury and investment expenses; (xii) marketing and sales expenses, including advertising, member relations, member enrollment expenses; (xiii) distribution expenses, including commissions, producers, broker and benefit consultant expenses; (xiv) claims operations expenses, including adjudication, appeals, settlements and expenses associated with paying claims; (xv) dental administration expenses, including disease management, utilization review and dental management

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expenses; (xvi) network operational expenses, including contracting, dentist relations and dental policy procedures; (xvii) charitable expenses, including any contributions to tax-exempt foundations and community benefits; (xviii) board, bureau or association fees; (xix) any miscellaneous expenses described in detail by expense, including an expense not included in (i) to (xviii), inclusive; (xx) payroll expenses and the number of employees on the carrier's payroll; (xxi) taxes, if any, paid by the carrier to the federal government or to the commonwealth; and (xxii) any other information deemed necessary by the commissioner.

(c) Any carrier required to report under this section, which provides administrative services to 1 or more self-insured groups shall include, as an appendix to such report, the following information: (i) the number of the carrier's self-insured customers; (ii) the aggregate number of members, as defined in section 1 of chapter 176J, in all of the carrier's self-insured customers; (iii) the aggregate number of lives covered in all of the carrier's self-insured customers; (iv) the aggregate value of direct premiums earned, as defined in said chapter 176J, for all of the carrier's self-insured customers; (v) the aggregate medical loss ratio, as defined in said chapter 176J, for all of the carrier's self-insured customers; (vi) net income; (vii) accumulated surplus; (viii) accumulated reserves; (ix) the percentage of the carrier's self-insured customers that include each of the benefits mandated for health benefit plans under chapters 175, 176A, 176B and 176G; (x) administrative service fees paid by each of the carrier's self-insured customers; and (xi) any other information deemed necessary by the commissioner.

(d) A carrier who fails to file this report on or before April 1 shall be assessed a late penalty not to exceed $100 per day. The division shall make public all of the information collected under this section. The division shall issue an annual summary report to the joint committee on financial services, the joint committee on health care financing and the house and senate committees on ways and means of the annual comprehensive financial statements by May 15. The information shall be exchanged with the center for health information and analysis for use under section 10 of chapter 12C. The division shall, from time to time, require payers to submit the underlying data used in their calculations for audit.

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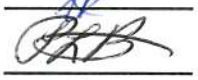
(4) 

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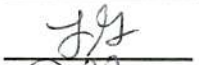
(6) 

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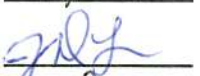
(8) 

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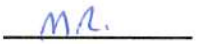
(13) 

The commissioner shall adopt rules to carry out this subsection, including standards and procedures requiring the registration of persons or entities not otherwise licensed or registered by the commissioner, such as third-party administrators, and criteria for the standardized reporting and uniform allocation methodologies among carriers. The division shall, before adopting regulations under this section, consult with other agencies of the commonwealth and the federal government and affected carriers to ensure that the reporting requirements imposed under the regulations are not duplicative.

(e) If, in any year, a carrier reports a risk-based capital ratio on a combined entity basis under subsection (a) that exceeds 700 percent, the division shall hold a public hearing within 60 days. The carrier shall submit testimony on its overall financial condition and the continued need for additional surplus. The carrier shall also submit testimony on how, and in what proportion to the total surplus accumulated, the carrier will dedicate any additional surplus to reducing the cost of dental benefit plans or for dental care quality improvement, patient safety, or dental cost containment activities not conducted in previous years. The division shall review such testimony and issue a final report on the results of the hearing.

(f) The commissioner may waive specific reporting requirements in this section for classes of carriers for which the commissioner deems such reporting requirements to be inapplicable; provided, however, that the commissioner shall provide written notice of any such waiver to the joint committee on health care financing and the house and senate committees on ways and means.

Section 4. Except as otherwise provided below, this chapter shall apply to all dental benefit plans, including plans issued directly by a carrier, through the connector, or through an intermediary. This chapter shall not apply to dental benefit plans issued, delivered or renewed to a self-insured group or where the carrier is acting as a third-party administrator. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a carrier that does not issue dental benefit plans subject to this chapter to issue dental benefit plans subject to this chapter.

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SECTION 2.

Section 10 of chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end of clause (4) of subsection (b):—

"or section 3 of chapter 176X".

SECTION 3.

The commissioner of insurance shall promulgate by October 1, 2023, regulations consistent with this act.

SECTION 4.

Except as otherwise provided herein, this act shall apply to all dental benefit plans issued, made effective, delivered or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.

[Signatories begin on the following page]