

SB 160

Health Insurance For All Alaskans

Senators French, Ellis and Wielechowski

Massachusetts and SB 160 Compared

Issue Area	Alaska - SB 160	Massachusetts - Enacted
<p>Sliding Scale Subsidies</p> <p><i>Definitions:</i> FPL = Federal Poverty Line</p>	<p>Yes: Households with incomes below 300% of the FPL will receive vouchers to make the price of coverage affordable. Residents only eligible for ACHIA coverage will receive vouchers up to 450% FPL.</p> <p>Health care vouchers will put the consumer in control when choosing a plan and a provider.</p>	<p>Yes: Households with income below 300% receive subsidized health coverage through the connector. For individuals who utilize vouchers, one plan type is available to households below 200% FPL and two plan types are available to those earn between 200-300% FPL.</p>
<p>Establishing A New Insurance Marketplace</p>	<p>The health care Clearinghouse will disseminate information, encourage competition, and help residents learn about different health coverage options.</p>	<p>The Connector provides information, encourages competition, and helps residents learn about different coverage options. It is a web-based marketplace.</p>
<p>Requirements for Consumers</p>	<p>All Alaskans would be required to have a minimum level of coverage, as defined by statute. If a product isn't affordable a hearing process allows for some exceptions.</p>	<p>All residents must have a minimum level of coverage, as defined by the Connector board. However, some residents have been exempted from the mandate because an affordable product isn't available to them.</p>
<p>Effect on Existing Public Programs</p>	<p>No changes to existing publicly funded programs.</p>	<p>Free care funds will still be available to hospitals, but the program will shift dollars from this account to the reform effort as more people get coverage and don't require free care.</p> <p>Medicaid reimbursement rates were also increased under the legislation.</p>
<p>Financing</p>	<p>Employer payroll tax, varying from 0-2% of payroll, depending on the number of employees.</p> <p>Federal dollars will be pursued through 1115 waivers.</p> <p>State funds will also be used.</p>	<p>Employer payroll tax of up to \$295 per employee for employers with more than 10 full time workers. A free rider surcharge can also be assessed if employers don't help employees get coverage and they utilize free care.</p> <p>Federal dollars from 1115 waivers have been funneled to the project.</p>
<p>Insurance Market Reforms</p>	<p>Yes: Guarantee Issue for individual health plans, on the premise that the individual responsibility clause will prevent adverse selection.</p>	<p>Yes: By merging the non-group and small group markets, insurance is portable and not tied to employment. Massachusetts already had guarantee issue laws.</p>

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