



Competitive Healthcare Marketplace Plan (Illinois' Health Insurance Exchange)

— Contrasting Legislation —

The Affordable Care Act calls on Illinois to create a health insurance exchange by 2014. An exchange is a competitive health insurance marketplace accessed through a user-friendly website. It provides easy-to-understand information that lets us compare plans to find the one that best meets our needs and budget.

St. Senator Koehler Bill	St. Senator Haine /St. Rep Mautino Bill
Currently SB 1729	Currently SB 1549 / HB 1577
This proposal was <i>developed through the direct involvement of five working groups</i> : Providers, small businesses, consumers, producers & insurers. Many meetings were held and compromises were made.	This proposal was <i>developed by and for the insurance industry</i>
Creates the Exchange to cover individuals and creates a pool– the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) – for employers with 2-50 employees that could be merged over time. The Exchange’s Board will explore opening SHOP to those with 51-100 employees after further study, but makes no such policy decision.	Creates the Exchange to cover individuals, as well as employers with 50 or fewer employees. It has separate pools for these two groups, which <i>will cost individuals and small businesses more</i> . The bill prohibits the possibility of opening the Exchange to employers with over 50 employees.
Emphasizes a transparent private marketplace that has <i>consumer protections, delivery reform, and tax credits (federal) and cost-sharing reductions for families</i> .	Emphasizes maintaining the existing private health insurance market and protecting insurers, as opposed to consumer or small business protections .
<i>An independent Board with 9 voting members (7 appointed by the Governor and 2 by the Attorney General) will govern the Exchange and include a consumer, small employer, provider (safety net), broker, health actuary, employee of a small employer, and labor. 4 state-agency directors and 4 state legislators will be non-voting members. This board would be overseen by and run by Illinoisans.</i>	<i>Does not establish exchange governance.</i> Creates only a legislative study committee that will make recommendations by the end of 2011. <i>As currently written it is only a study, thus Illinois stands to lose 150-250 million dollars from the federal government to pay for the implementation of the Exchange.</i> The study committee consists only of legislators. No stakeholders will have direct representation on the committee. Since there is no board, <i>this bill abdicates state oversight to the federal government’s exchange board.</i>
<i>Creates a Stakeholder Advisory Committee of consumers, small businesses, providers and insurers. The Board must consult with brokers, labor, legislative leaders, state agencies, the self-employed, and advocates for the underserved.</i>	The proposal states only that implementation should have “broad stakeholder representation.” <i>It does not define this, nor does it create specific channels for stakeholder and public input regarding direct representation.</i>
Puts forth <i>strong provisions regarding integrity, transparency and conflicts of interest.</i>	Has <i>NO independent provisions regarding transparency or conflicts of interest.</i>
The Exchange will <i>help facilitate enrollment in public programs</i> such as Medicaid and CHIP	The proposal <i>says nothing</i> about how the Exchange can benefit these important programs. It will cause havoc to the Medicaid program and increase costs.
<i>Creates an easy-to-use website comparing plans, as well as a toll-free hotline.</i> Provides for Navigators, entities to help consumers use the Exchange.	The proposal offers <i>NO means</i> of helping consumers understand and use the Exchange.