

PUBLICATION

Obama Signs Bill Making Changes to Affordable Care Act

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On October 7, President Obama signed into law H.R.1624, the Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act. The act amends a provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to allow states to opt out of the scheduled expansion of the small group market from 51 to 100 individuals. The measure is the latest in a series of bipartisan agreements on adjustments to the ACA. Since the March 2010 passage of the ACA, more than 20 statutory changes to the law have passed Congress and been signed by the President. The changes have included modifications to adjusted gross income eligibility requirements, provided assistance programs for low income beneficiaries, and repealed certain provisions of the act, among many others.

Given the importance of these changes, [this table](#) highlights key coverage-related legislative changes to the Affordable Care Act. The table was prepared by the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington-based think tank dedicated to promoting bipartisan solutions to address the key challenges facing our nation. Baker Donelson and the Daschle Group have long enjoyed a strong and fruitful relationship with the Bipartisan Policy Center, which was founded in 2007 by former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, and George Mitchell.

We will continue to share important health care policy updates out of Washington as the situation progresses. For more information about federal legislative issues, please contact Sheila Burke, Chair of Baker Donelson's Government Relations and Public Policy Group or Nathan Daschle, President and COO of The Daschle Group, a Public Policy Advisory of Baker Donelson.



Key Coverage-Related Legislative Changes to the Affordable Care Act

Topic	Statutory Change	Date of Enactment	Action
Minimum coverage: TRICARE	PL 111-159 (TRICARE Affirmation Act)	4/26/2010	Clarifies that health care provided under TRICARE and related programs constitute minimum essential coverage as required by ACA.
Minimum coverage: Veterans Affairs	PL 111-171	5/27/2010	Clarifies that health care provided by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs constitutes minimum essential coverage as required by ACA.
Premium tax credits	PL 111-309 (Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010)	12/15/2010	ACA limited amount of premium tax credit overpayments that the IRS can collect, based on household income. Revises limits on recoupment by the IRS on a sliding scale with an upper limit of no greater than \$3,500 for incomes up to 500% of Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). Used to pay for Medicare physician payment sustainable growth rate (SGR) patch and other extenders.
TRICARE	PL 111-301 (Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011)	1/7/2011	Extends TRICARE coverage to dependent adult children up to age 26.
Premium tax credits	PL 112-9 (Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayment Act of 2011)	4/14/2011	Further modified the ACA limits on recoupment of premium tax credit overpayments on a sliding scale with an upper limit of no greater than \$2,500 for incomes up to 400% of FPL. Used to pay for repeal of requirement that businesses file an IRS 1099 when they pay a vendor more than \$600 for goods in a single year.
Consumer Oriented and Operated Plan (CO-OP) Funding	PL 112-10 (DoD and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011)	4/15/2011	Rescinded \$2.2 billion of \$6 billion appropriation for CO-OPs.
Free choice voucher program	PL 112-10 (DoD and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011)	4/15/2011	Repealed provisions requiring certain employers to provide vouchers to qualified employees to purchase coverage through an exchange. (Wyden Amendment)

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