

SINGLE-PAYER/PUBLIC OPTION STATE LEGISLATION



Updated October 25, 2019

* *Overview.* The below survey attempts to offer a comprehensive look at the state legislative activity on issues related to universal health care coverage. Specifically, the document is divided into the different types of proposals:

- **Single-Payer Legislation** (e.g., Medicare for All) – establishes one government-administered health plan to replace or phase out current sources of public and private coverage.
- **Buy-In or Public Option Legislation** – leverages existing government-run programs to offer an additional coverage option to consumers (sometimes a target population based, for example, on age or income) that would typically be sold alongside existing coverage options.
- **Miscellaneous** - covers legislative efforts to study the potential impacts that such proposals may have on a given state's consumers or budget.

Given the breadth of these issues (and the array of terms used to describe them), other legislation introduced in the states may also address these issues.

* *Legend.* The bills included below are color coded based on their status throughout the legislative session:

- **BLUE** - Legislation Enacted or at the Governor's Desk
- **YELLOW** - Legislation Moving Through Either Chamber
- **GREY** - Legislature Has Adjourned or the Legislation Has Otherwise Failed

More specific procedural updates are available through the links provided, but will not be reflected in the chart.

* The descriptions of the legislation provided offer a broad overview. If there is a particular bill for which you would like additional information, please let us know.

State	Legislation	Classification	Status	Overview
Colorado	HB 1004	Miscellaneous	Enacted	Requires state regulators to develop a proposal concerning the feasibility, design, costs, benefits, and implementation of a public option in the state; among other things.
Colorado	HB 1176	Miscellaneous	Passed House and Senate (conference required) ADJOURNED	Creates the Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force to develop fiscal analyses of current and alternative health care systems (e.g., a public option system, a multi-payer universal care system, a universal health care system, etc.), among other things.
Connecticut	HB 6534	Medicaid for All	Introduced ADJOURNED	Codifies that health care is an individual right/public policy priority of the state and creates a statewide public option for health care via Medicaid.
Connecticut	HB 6894	Medicaid for All	Introduced ADJOURNED	Requires the Office of Health Strategy to develop a plan to implement an affordable health insurance option for persons ineligible for Medicaid.
Connecticut	HB 5855	Miscellaneous	Introduced ADJOURNED	Creates a task force to study the feasibility, and best method, of implementing a public health insurance option in Connecticut.
Florida	HB 697/SB 1486	Single-Payer	Introduced ADJOURNED	Establishes a single payer health care system (the "Healthy Florida Program") for state residents, among other things.
Hawaii	HR 121	Single-Payer	Introduced ADJOURNED	Directs the legislature to report on the status of the Hawaiian Health Authority (i.e., an autonomous body established with the goal of assessing universal health care coverage for the state, among other things.)
Hawaii	HR 175	Miscellaneous	Introduced ADJOURNED	Urges U.S. Congress to enact H.R. 1384 (Medicare for All).
Hawaii	HB 1415	Medicaid Buy-In	Introduced ADJOURNED	Requires the Department of Health to conduct a study to determine the need for a state Medicaid buy-in plan and submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature.
Hawaii	HB 1286	Single-Payer	Introduced ADJOURNED	Establishes a single-payer health care program for Hawaii residents, among other things.
Hawaii	HB 1454/SB 330	Medicaid Buy-In	SB 330: Enacted	Requires the Department of Human Services to implement an earned income disregard program as an intermediate step to implementing a full Medicaid buy-in program and requires the Department submit a report on the viability of implementing a full Medicaid buy-in program.
Illinois	HB 8	Medicare for All	Introduced	Creates the Illinois Health Services Program, under which all individuals residing in the state are eligible for health insurance; provides that it is unlawful for private insurers to sell health insurance coverage that duplicates the coverage of the Program, among other things.
Iowa	HB 96	Single-Payer	Introduced ADJOURNED	Establishes a single-payer health care program (Healthy Iowa) for all residents.
Maine	HP 1163/LD 1611	Public Option	Introduced	Establishes the Maine Health Plan, a public option for all state residents; authorizes human services and commerce commissioners to seek waivers to establish public option.

Maine	HP 316/LD 407	Single-Payer	Failed	Establishes a single-payer health care system (Healthy Maine) for state residents.
Maine	LD 1617	Single-Payer	Introduced	Establishes the Maine Single Payer Health Care Program to provide health care to Maine residents.
Maine	SB 52	Miscellaneous	Failed	CONCEPT DRAFT - Proposes to establish a health care system that will provide all Maine residents with access to a health benefit plan covering essential health benefits, among other things.
Maryland	HB 1087/SB 871	Single-Payer	HB 1087: Withdrawn SB 871: Introduced ADJOURNED	Establishes a universal health care program (Healthy Maryland) for all state residents; allows state residents employed in or outside of the state to opt out of participating in the Healthy Maryland, among other things.
Massachusetts	H 3220/S 1659	Single-Payer	Introduced	Commissions a report on the people's budget (part of which is intended to contribute funding for state's transition to single payer health care.)
Massachusetts	S 697	Public Option	Introduced	Establishes a public health insurance option for all state residents.
Massachusetts	SB 683/HB 1194	Medicare for All	Introduced	Establishes the Massachusetts Health Care Trust, which guarantees health care access to all residents of the Commonwealth through a Medicare for All financing system, among other things.
Massachusetts	S 674	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Requires the Center for Health Information and Analysis to recommend a methodology to develop a single-payer benchmark.
Massachusetts	S 735	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Requires the Center for Health Information and Analysis to recommend a methodology to develop a single-payer benchmark, among other things.
Massachusetts	HB 1163	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Establishes a special commission to study the implementation of single-payer health care in Massachusetts.
Massachusetts	SB 717	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Establishes a special commission to investigate the value and viability of a public option health insurance plan available to public and non-public employees in Massachusetts, among other things.
Minnesota	HF 3	Public Option	Introduced ADJOURNED	Establishes the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Act, a public option for all state residents; authorizes human services and commerce commissioners to seek waivers to establish public option.
Minnesota	SF 2128	Miscellaneous	Introduced ADJOURNED	Requires the Commissioner of Health to contract with the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and the Carlson School of Management to conduct an analysis of the benefits/costs of a legislative proposal for a universal health care financing system.
Minnesota	SF 719	Medicaid Buy-In	Introduced ADJOURNED	Creates a state Medicaid buy-in program for state residents whose income is greater than the Medicaid cut-off; directs government to seek all necessary federal and state waivers to establish the program, among other things.
Missouri	HB 554	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Directs the Joint Committee on Legislative Research to investigate the viability of a state-run Medicaid Buy-In program.
New Hampshire	HB 180	Miscellaneous	Deemed Inexpedient to Legislate Passed House	Establishes a Commission to Examine the Feasibility of the New England States Entering into a Compact for a Single Payer Health Care Program.
New Hampshire	HB 604	Miscellaneous	ADJOURNED	Establishes a commission to assess the benefits and cost of a "health care for all" program in the state.
New Hampshire	HB 697	Medicare for All	Deemed Inexpedient to Legislate	Establishes the New Hampshire Health Services Program to provide universal health care for all state residents (if a federal scheme is enacted, will become part of a nationwide system).
New Jersey	SB 561/AB 1343	Public Option	Introduced	Establishes the New Jersey Public Option Health Care Program to compete in the market with insurance offered by private health insurers.
New Jersey	SB 2598/AB 2269	Medicare for All	Introduced	Expands Medicare to every New Jersey resident, regardless of age, health, or disability status; upon enactment, prohibits any private carrier from offering a health benefits plan that includes coverage for health care services covered by Medicare, among other things.
New Mexico	SB 279/HB 295	Single-Payer	SB 279: Introduced HB 295: Postponed Indefinitely ADJOURNED	Establishes a Health Security Plan to provide health care--including minimum essential health benefits--for New Mexico residents; prohibits the sale of private health insurance to a beneficiary for a health care service that is covered by the Health Security Plan, except in limited circumstances, among other things.
New Mexico	SB 405/HB 416	Medicaid Buy-In	SB 405: Postponed Indefinitely HB 416: Postponed Indefinitely ADJOURNED	Establishes a state public option through Medicaid to provide New Mexico residents with a choice of a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan.
New York	SB 3577/AB 5248	Single-Payer	Introduced	Creates a single-payer system (the New York Health Program) for all state residents; states that the Act neither creates nor prohibits or limits any employment benefit, among other things.
Oregon	HB 3253	Miscellaneous	Failed	Establishes a Task Force on Health Care Access to study methods for a establishing a state-based primary care trust to deliver universal health care and primary services.
Oregon	HB 2012	Medicaid Buy-In/Other Public Option	Failed	Requires the Oregon Health Authority to develop a plan for a Medicaid Buy-In program or public option for Oregon residents who do not have access to health care.
Oregon	SB 770	Single-Payer	Enacted	Establishes the Health Care for All Oregon Plan to provide comprehensive health care coverage to all individuals working and residing in Oregon; supplants coverage by private insurers, among other things.
Oregon	SJM 2	Miscellaneous	Failed	Urges the Oregon congressional delegation to cosponsor/endorse the State-Based Universal Health Care Act of 2018.
Rhode Island	SR 289/HR 5368	Miscellaneous	Recommended Be Held for Further Study	Urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that would develop a federal Medicare for All single-payer program.

Rhode Island	SB 290/ HB 5611	Single-Payer	SB 290: Recommended Be Held for Further Study HB 5611: Introduced ADJOURNED	Establishes a single-payer health care program (RICHIP) for state residents; bans private health insurance that provides duplicative coverage of the benefits provided under RICHIP, among other things.
Rhode Island	SR 296/HR 5612	Miscellaneous	Recommended Be Held for Further Study	Creates a special legislative commission to study and assess the pros and cons of implementing a Medicare-for-All program in Rhode Island.
Tennessee	HB 1094/SB 974	Medicare Buy-In	Introduced ADJOURNED	Allows any person 55+ who is not already eligible for Medicare coverage to buy into the state's Medicare program, among other things.
Tennessee	HB 960/SB 945	Medicaid Buy-In	Introduced ADJOURNED	Creates a Medicaid buy-in program for people with disabilities who are in the basic coverage group or the medical improvement group, among other things.
Texas	HB 4127	Single-Payer	Left Pending in Committee	Establishes a state single-payer program (the Healthy Texas Program), among other things.
Texas	HCR 80	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Urges Congress to enact legislation establishing a single-payer health care system.
Texas	HB 3860/SB 1825	Medicaid Buy-In	Introduced	Allows children with disabilities to be eligible for the states' Medicaid Buy-in program.
Texas	HB 1179	Medicaid Buy-In	Introduced	Allows Medicaid recipients with increased household income from employment to buy into the Medicaid program.
Texas	HB 2313	Medicaid Buy-In	Introduced	Allows all small business employees to buy-in to the states' Medicaid program.
Texas	SB 1207/HB3748	Medicaid Buy-In	SB 1207: Enacted	Allows children with disabilities to be eligible for the states' Medicaid Buy-in program, among other things.
Vermont	HB 225	Miscellaneous	Introduced	Directs the Agency of Human Services to explore the potential for establishing a state Medicare for All/other universal health care program in cooperation with other northeastern states, among other things.
Vermont	HB 129	Single-Payer	Introduced	Establishes a universal, publicly financed primary care system for all Vermont residents.
Washington	SB 5822/HB 1877	Single-Payer	SB 5822: Passed Senate, referred to House HB 1877: Introduced ADJOURNED	Requires the health care authority to convene a working group on establishing a state universal health care system in Washington and requires the group to make recommendations to the legislature on a publicly funded, privately delivered health care system, among other things.
Washington	SB 5526	Public Option	Enacted	Establishes standardized health plans for each of the bronze, silver, and gold levels; requires the state's health authority to contract with one or more carriers to offer QHPs on the state's exchange beginning in 2021; and requires the contracting carrier to offer at least one bronze, silver, and gold standardized QHP such that there is a choice of QHPs offered in every county in the state, among other things.