

CONTENT AREA

HB 2013

ISSUE/QUESTION

What are the October 9, 2009 updates to the IMPORTANT NOTICE concerning dependent coverage posted at www.benefitoptions.az.gov

ANSWER

HB 2013, particularly the portion adding a definition of "dependent" to statute, prompted a number of inquiries to this agency and raised concerns about potential changes to health benefits for certain dependents.

Based upon legal advice from the Office of the Attorney General, the definition of "dependent" for the State insurance plan year beginning October 1, 2009 is not affected by HB 2013 because any interpretation to the contrary would impair the lawful contract expectations of state employees in violation of the Arizona Constitution.

The definition of "dependent" currently in place will remain effective through September 30, 2010.

Please note the definition of dependent defined in HB 2013 will apply as of October 1, 2010.

If you have further questions concerning your benefits please call 602-542-5008.

ISSUED

October 9, 2009