

RISE Delaware™ Update: Fantastic News – HB 281 is NOW LAW!

TO SEBC Observers and Other Friends Of Rise:

FANTASTIC NEWS - HB 281 IS NOW OFFICIALLY LAW!

Governor Carney took no action on HB 281 within the ten days prescribed by the Delaware Constitution, so it has become law without his signature by virtue of the Delaware Constitution. A Medicare Supplement plan is now legislatively mandated for all State employees and retirees.

It has been 21 long months since we filed the RISE Delaware court case in September 2022 that stopped the State from taking away our Medicare Supplement benefit and offloading us onto Medicare (Dis)Advantage. Keeping that “stay” in place enabled us all to work for the last year and a half to achieve the codification of our benefit in HB 281. It is hard to believe that, after all this time, Medicare Advantage is in the rearview mirror.

As noted in an earlier post, however, Governor Carney yesterday vetoed HB 282 which would provide procedural protections against any future efforts by the State through the SEBC to secretly change our health care benefits the way it did in 2022. Given that the bill passed both the Senate and the House unanimously, we hope the legislature will do the right thing and respect its earlier unanimous vote by voting to override the Governor’s veto. HB 282 is an important tool for protecting long term our Medicare Supplement benefit long term.

The other bills Rep. Baumbach introduced to codify the RHBAS recommendations to fund our benefits long-term are on their way to the governor’s office. These bills will deter future attacks on our healthcare benefits by providing the necessary funding and certain cost control measures.

KUDOS to Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, Rep. Paul Baumbach and Sen. Bryan Townsend for their strong leadership in bringing about today’s important mandate in Delaware code of a Medicare Supplement plan for State retirees and rejection of Medicare Advantage. They worked tirelessly through the RHBAS process and in follow-up legislative hard work. And thank you to all the elected, union and retiree members who kept the RHBAS ship pointed in the right direction and on course and who pushed the SEBC last fall to drop Medicare Advantage in the new contract.

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Finally, we appreciate all of you who have supported RISE in working to achieve this victory, including by your participation in the political and committee processes and your contributions (both financial and legal) to the litigation. WE SHOULD ALL CELEBRATE!

Elisa Diller, President
Mary Graham, Legal Liaison
Sen. Karen Peterson (ret.), Legislative Liaison
Rev. Robert Hall, Treasurer

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

Elisa Diller, President

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Checks may be made payable to: RISE Delaware

Address: RISE Delaware, P.O. Box 7262, Newark, DE 19714

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