

Whereas The former State of New York established the Essential Plan, an Affordable Care Act Basic Health Plan, and

Whereas the Essential Plan offered better coverage at a lower cost to thousands of New Yorkers, and

Whereas the Northeast State must now make provisions for the millions of Americans in our new unified state, and

Whereas the Essential Plan model can be effectively extended to reduce costs while expanding care, and

Whereas the the health and prosperity of our people is a fundamental human right,

The Assembly of the State of Northeast enacts,

****Section 1 Extending Coverage to Low Income Earners**** The Northeast Department of Health is authorized to extend the Essential Plan to cover earners making up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level via the waiver application and approval process of the Affordable Care Act at a premium not exceeding the maximums established by the Act.

****Section 2 Extending Coverage to All Earners**** The Northeast Department of Health is authorized to extended the Essential Plan to earners above 400% of the Federal Poverty Level at a premium not exceeding 9.55% of their income.

****Section 3 Enhanced Enrollment****

(A) The Northeast Department of Health shall implement Medicaid and CHIP Express Lane Eligibility in cooperation with other benefit-offering agencies of Northeast

(B) The Northeast Department of Health shall report to the Assembly within six months a proposal to expand and enhance the ACA Healthcare Navigator program to raise enrollment

(C) The Northeast Department of Health shall report to the Assembly within six months a proposal to reduce unnecessarily burdensome or duplicative paperwork in the insurance enrollment process

****Section 4 Appropriations****

(A) The Northeast Basic Health Plan Trust Fund is appropriated an additional \$17,000,000,000 (seventeen billion dollars) annually beginning the next fiscal year for ten years

(B) The Northeast Department of Health is appropriated an additional \$25,000,000 (fifty-five million dollars) annually for five years to expand and enhance the Healthcare Navigator program

(C) The Northeast Department of Health shall continue to report annually to the Assembly and the Executive on the status and stability of the Basic Health Plan Trust Fund over the next one, five, and ten years