

A BILL

entitled

**HEALTH INSURANCE (HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING FUND)
AMENDMENT ACT 2024**

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Health Insurance Act 1970 to establish a managed fund to strengthen the health system in Bermuda;

Be it enacted by The King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Citation

1 This Act, which amends the Health Insurance Act 1970, may be cited as the Health Insurance (Health System Strengthening Fund) Amendment Act 2024.

Inserts sections 3AA, 3AB and 3AC

2 The Health Insurance Act 1970 is amended by inserting the following after section 3A—

“Health System Strengthening Fund

3AA (1) There shall be established a fund to be called the Health System Strengthening Fund (in this section referred to as “the HSS Fund”) into which shall be paid such sums of money that have been set aside in the Mutual Re-insurance Fund for the purpose of digital health development, national health system metrics, integrated care pathways and development of a health care workforce strategy.

(2) There shall be paid out of the Mutual Re-insurance Fund any expenses incurred by the Committee in carrying out its functions in respect of the HSS Fund.

Management of HSS Fund

3AB (1) The Minister may direct the Committee, in writing, to pay out of the HSS Fund such sums of money to such persons or entities as the Minister directs, for the purpose of strengthening the health system in Bermuda.

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(2) The Committee shall maintain a record of transactions of the HSS Fund and shall ensure that—

- (a) all monies received are properly brought to account; and
- (b) all payments out of the HSS Fund are correctly made and properly authorised.

(3) In respect of 46,300 insured persons, there shall be paid out of the Mutual Re-Insurance Fund to—

- (a) the Health Insurance Fund;
- (b) the Board; or
- (c) the HSS Fund,

such sum as the Minister may, from time to time by order, prescribe.

(4) Section 6 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1977 does not apply to an order made under subsection (3).

(5) The financial year of the HSS Fund shall end on 31st March each year.

Report of Auditor General

3AC (1) The Commission shall cause the preparation of the financial statements for the HSS Fund within seven months of the end of the HSS Fund's financial year and forward a copy to the Auditor General.

(2) The Auditor General shall examine the financial statements and prepare a report, in writing, to the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall cause copies of the report of the Auditor General to be laid before the Legislature as soon as practicable.

Dissolution of HSS Fund

3AD (1) The Minister may dissolve the HSS Fund if the Minister determines that there is no object for which the HSS Fund could lawfully be used.

(2) Where the HSS Fund is dissolved under subsection (1), any monies in the HSS Fund at the time of the dissolution shall be paid into and form part of the Mutual Re-insurance Fund.”.

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Health Insurance Act 1970 to establish a managed fund to strengthen the health system in Bermuda.

Clause 1 provides the title of Bill.

Clause 2 inserts sections 3AA, 3AB, 3AC and 3AD into the Health Insurance Act 1970 to establish a managed fund called the Health System Strengthening Fund to strengthen the health system in Bermuda and to provide for the management, reporting and dissolution of such fund.