

In the meantime, the bill would create a temporary high-risk insurance pool for people with medical problems who have been rejected by insurers and have been uninsured at least six months. That would occur this year.

And starting later this year, insurers could no longer exclude coverage for specific medical problems for children with pre-existing conditions, nor could they any longer set lifetime coverage limits for adults and kids.

In 2014, annual limits on coverage would be banned.

New policies sold on the exchanges would be required to cover a range of benefits, including hospitalizations, doctor visits, prescription drugs, maternity care and certain preventive tests.

### **Q: How would the legislation affect young adults?**

A: If you're an unmarried adult younger than 26, you could stay on your parent's insurance coverage as long as you are not offered health coverage at work.

In addition, people in their 20s would be given the option of buying a "catastrophic" plan that would have lower premiums. The coverage would largely only kick in after the individual had \$6,000 in out of pocket expenses.

### **Q: I own a small business. Would I have to buy insurance for my workers? What help could I get?**

A: It depends on the size of your firm. Companies with fewer than 50 workers wouldn't face any penalties if they don't offer insurance.

Companies could get tax credits to help buy insurance if they have 25 or fewer employees and a workforce of an average wage of up to \$50,000. Tax credits of up to 35 percent of the cost of premiums would be available this year and would reach 50 percent in 2014. The full credits are for the smallest of firms with the low-wage workers; the subsidies shrink as companies' workforce and average wages rise.

Firms with more than 50 employees that do not offer coverage would have to pay a fee of up to \$2,000 per full-time employee if any of their workers got government-subsidized insurance coverage in the exchanges. The first 30 workers would be excluded from the assessment.

### **Q: I'm over 65. How would the legislation affect seniors?**

A: The Medicare prescription-drug benefit would be improved substantially. This year, seniors who enter the Part D coverage gap, known as the "doughnut hole," would get \$250 to help pay for their medications.