

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to employee health care plans;
3 amending s. 627.6699, F.S.; revising definitions;
4 removing provisions requiring certain insurance
5 carriers to provide semiannual reports to the Office
6 of Insurance Regulation; repealing requirements that
7 certain insurance carriers offer standard, basic, high
8 deductible, and limited health benefit plans; making
9 conforming changes; creating s. 627.66997, F.S.;
10 authorizing certain small employer health benefit
11 plans to use a stop-loss insurance policy; defining
12 the term "stop-loss insurance policy"; providing
13 requirements for such policies; amending ss. 627.642,
14 627.6475, and 627.657, F.S.; conforming cross-
15 references; amending ss. 627.6571, 627.6675,
16 641.31074, and 641.3922, F.S.; conforming provisions
17 to changes made by the act; providing an effective
18 date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 627.6699, Florida
23 Statutes, is amended, paragraphs (c) through (x) of subsection
24 (3) are redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (w),
25 respectively, and present paragraphs (b) and (o) of that
26 subsection, subsection (5), paragraph (b) of subsection (6),

27 paragraphs (g), (h), (j), and (l) through (o) of subsection
 28 (11), subsections (12) through (14), paragraph (k) of subsection
 29 (15), and subsections (16) through (18) of that section are
 30 amended, to read:

31 627.6699 Employee Health Care Access Act.—

32 (2) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The purpose and intent of this
 33 section is to promote the availability of health insurance
 34 coverage to small employers regardless of their claims
 35 experience or their employees' health status, to establish rules
 36 regarding renewability of that coverage, to establish
 37 limitations on the use of exclusions for preexisting conditions,
 38 ~~to provide for development of a standard health benefit plan and~~
 39 ~~a basic health benefit plan to be offered to all small~~
 40 ~~employers,~~ to provide for establishment of a reinsurance program
 41 for coverage of small employers, and to improve the overall
 42 fairness and efficiency of the small group health insurance
 43 market.

44 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

45 ~~(b) "Basic health benefit plan" and "standard health~~
 46 ~~benefit plan" mean low-cost health care plans developed pursuant~~
 47 ~~to subsection (12).~~

48 (n) ~~(e)~~ "Modified community rating" means a method used to
 49 develop carrier premiums which spreads financial risk across a
 50 large population; allows the use of separate rating factors for
 51 age, gender, family composition, tobacco usage, and geographic
 52 area as determined under paragraph (5) (f) ~~(5) (j)~~; and allows

53 adjustments for: claims experience, health status, or duration
 54 of coverage as permitted under subparagraph (6) (b)5.; and
 55 administrative and acquisition expenses as permitted under
 56 subparagraph (6) (b)5.

57 (5) AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE.—

58 ~~(a) Beginning January 1, 1993, every small employer~~
 59 ~~carrier issuing new health benefit plans to small employers in~~
 60 ~~this state must, as a condition of transacting business in this~~
 61 ~~state, offer to eligible small employers a standard health~~
 62 ~~benefit plan and a basic health benefit plan. Such a small~~
 63 ~~employer carrier shall issue a standard health benefit plan or a~~
 64 ~~basic health benefit plan to every eligible small employer that~~
 65 ~~elects to be covered under such plan, agrees to make the~~
 66 ~~required premium payments under such plan, and to satisfy the~~
 67 ~~other provisions of the plan.~~

68 ~~(a) (b)~~ In the case of A small employer carrier that which
 69 ~~does not, on or after January 1, 1993, offer coverage but~~ renews
 70 or continues ~~which does, on or after January 1, 1993, renew or~~
 71 ~~continue coverage in force~~ must, ~~such carrier shall be required~~
 72 ~~to~~ provide coverage to newly eligible employees and dependents
 73 on the same basis as small employer carriers that offer which
 74 ~~are offering coverage on or after January 1, 1993.~~

75 ~~(b) (e)~~ Every small employer carrier must, as a condition
 76 of transacting business in this state, ÷

77 1. offer and issue all small employer health benefit plans
 78 on a guaranteed-issue basis to every eligible small employer,

79 | with 2 to 50 eligible employees, that elects to be covered under
80 | such plan, agrees to make the required premium payments, and
81 | satisfies the other provisions of the plan. A rider for
82 | additional or increased benefits may be medically underwritten
83 | and may only be added to the standard health benefit plan. The
84 | increased rate charged for the additional or increased benefit
85 | must be rated in accordance with this section.

86 | ~~2. In the absence of enrollment availability in the~~
87 | ~~Florida Health Insurance Plan, offer and issue basic and~~
88 | ~~standard small employer health benefit plans and a high-~~
89 | ~~deductible plan that meets the requirements of a health savings~~
90 | ~~account plan or health reimbursement account as defined by~~
91 | ~~federal law, on a guaranteed issue basis, during a 31-day open~~
92 | ~~enrollment period of August 1 through August 31 of each year, to~~
93 | ~~every eligible small employer, with fewer than two eligible~~
94 | ~~employees, which small employer is not formed primarily for the~~
95 | ~~purpose of buying health insurance and which elects to be~~
96 | ~~covered under such plan, agrees to make the required premium~~
97 | ~~payments, and satisfies the other provisions of the plan.~~
98 | ~~Coverage provided under this subparagraph shall begin on October~~
99 | ~~1 of the same year as the date of enrollment, unless the small~~
100 | ~~employer carrier and the small employer agree to a different~~
101 | ~~date. A rider for additional or increased benefits may be~~
102 | ~~medically underwritten and may only be added to the standard~~
103 | ~~health benefit plan. The increased rate charged for the~~
104 | ~~additional or increased benefit must be rated in accordance with~~

105 ~~this section. For purposes of this subparagraph, a person, his~~
106 ~~or her spouse, and his or her dependent children constitute a~~
107 ~~single eligible employee if that person and spouse are employed~~
108 ~~by the same small employer and either that person or his or her~~
109 ~~spouse has a normal work week of less than 25 hours. Any right~~
110 ~~to an open enrollment of health benefit coverage for groups of~~
111 ~~fewer than two employees, pursuant to this section, shall remain~~
112 ~~in full force and effect in the absence of the availability of~~
113 ~~new enrollment into the Florida Health Insurance Plan.~~

114 ~~3. This paragraph does not limit a carrier's ability to~~
115 ~~offer other health benefit plans to small employers if the~~
116 ~~standard and basic health benefit plans are offered and~~
117 ~~rejected.~~

118 ~~(d) A small employer carrier must file with the office, in~~
119 ~~a format and manner prescribed by the committee, a standard~~
120 ~~health care plan, a high deductible plan that meets the federal~~
121 ~~requirements of a health savings account plan or a health~~
122 ~~reimbursement arrangement, and a basic health care plan to be~~
123 ~~used by the carrier. The provisions of this section requiring~~
124 ~~the filing of a high deductible plan are effective September 1,~~
125 ~~2004.~~

126 ~~(e) The office at any time may, after providing notice and~~
127 ~~an opportunity for a hearing, disapprove the continued use by~~
128 ~~the small employer carrier of the standard or basic health~~
129 ~~benefit plan on the grounds that such plan does not meet the~~
130 ~~requirements of this section.~~

131 (c)~~(f)~~ Except as provided in paragraph (d) ~~(g)~~, a health
 132 benefit plan covering small employers must comply with
 133 preexisting condition provisions specified in s. 627.6561 or,
 134 for health maintenance contracts, in s. 641.31071.

135 (d)~~(g)~~ A health benefit plan covering small employers,
 136 issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1994, must comply with
 137 the following conditions:

138 1. All health benefit plans must be offered and issued on
 139 a guaranteed-issue basis, ~~except that benefits purchased through~~
 140 ~~riders as provided in paragraph (c) may be medically~~
 141 ~~underwritten for the group, but may not be individually~~
 142 ~~underwritten as to the employees or the dependents of such~~
 143 ~~employees.~~ Additional or increased benefits may only be offered
 144 by riders.

145 2. ~~The provisions of Paragraph (c) applies~~ (f) ~~apply~~ to
 146 health benefit plans issued to a small employer who has two or
 147 more eligible employees, and to health benefit plans that are
 148 issued to a small employer who has fewer than two eligible
 149 employees and that cover an employee who has had creditable
 150 coverage continually to a date not more than 63 days before the
 151 effective date of the new coverage.

152 3. For health benefit plans that are issued to a small
 153 employer who has fewer than two employees and that cover an
 154 employee who has not been continually covered by creditable
 155 coverage within 63 days before the effective date of the new
 156 coverage, preexisting condition provisions must not exclude

157 coverage for a period beyond 24 months following the employee's
 158 effective date of coverage and may relate only to:

159 a. Conditions that, during the 24-month period immediately
 160 preceding the effective date of coverage, had manifested
 161 themselves in such a manner as would cause an ordinarily prudent
 162 person to seek medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment or
 163 for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was
 164 recommended or received; or

165 b. A pregnancy existing on the effective date of coverage.

166 (e) ~~(h)~~ All health benefit plans issued under this section
 167 must comply with the following conditions:

168 1. For employers who have fewer than two employees, a late
 169 enrollee may be excluded from coverage for no longer than 24
 170 months if he or she was not covered by creditable coverage
 171 continually to a date not more than 63 days before the effective
 172 date of his or her new coverage.

173 2. Any requirement used by a small employer carrier in
 174 determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer
 175 group, including requirements for minimum participation of
 176 eligible employees and minimum employer contributions, must be
 177 applied uniformly among all small employer groups having the
 178 same number of eligible employees applying for coverage or
 179 receiving coverage from the small employer carrier, except that
 180 a small employer carrier that participates in, administers, or
 181 issues health benefits pursuant to s. 381.0406 which do not
 182 include a preexisting condition exclusion may require as a

183 condition of offering such benefits that the employer has had no
184 health insurance coverage for its employees for a period of at
185 least 6 months. A small employer carrier may vary application of
186 minimum participation requirements and minimum employer
187 contribution requirements only by the size of the small employer
188 group.

189 3. In applying minimum participation requirements with
190 respect to a small employer, a small employer carrier shall not
191 consider as an eligible employee employees or dependents who
192 have qualifying existing coverage in an employer-based group
193 insurance plan or an ERISA qualified self-insurance plan in
194 determining whether the applicable percentage of participation
195 is met. However, a small employer carrier may count eligible
196 employees and dependents who have coverage under another health
197 plan that is sponsored by that employer.

198 4. A small employer carrier shall not increase any
199 requirement for minimum employee participation or any
200 requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a
201 small employer at any time after the small employer has been
202 accepted for coverage, unless the employer size has changed, in
203 which case the small employer carrier may apply the requirements
204 that are applicable to the new group size.

205 5. If a small employer carrier offers coverage to a small
206 employer, it must offer coverage to all the small employer's
207 eligible employees and their dependents. A small employer
208 carrier may not offer coverage limited to certain persons in a

209 group or to part of a group, except with respect to late
 210 enrollees.

211 6. A small employer carrier may not modify any health
 212 benefit plan issued to a small employer with respect to a small
 213 employer or any eligible employee or dependent through riders,
 214 endorsements, or otherwise to restrict or exclude coverage for
 215 certain diseases or medical conditions otherwise covered by the
 216 health benefit plan.

217 7. An initial enrollment period of at least 30 days must
 218 be provided. An annual 30-day open enrollment period must be
 219 offered to each small employer's eligible employees and their
 220 dependents. A small employer carrier must provide special
 221 enrollment periods as required by s. 627.65615.

222 ~~(i)1. A small employer carrier need not offer coverage or
 223 accept applications pursuant to paragraph (a):~~

224 ~~a. To a small employer if the small employer is not
 225 physically located in an established geographic service area of
 226 the small employer carrier, provided such geographic service
 227 area shall not be less than a county;~~

228 ~~b. To an employee if the employee does not work or reside
 229 within an established geographic service area of the small
 230 employer carrier; or~~

231 ~~e. To a small employer group within an area in which the
 232 small employer carrier reasonably anticipates, and demonstrates
 233 to the satisfaction of the office, that it cannot, within its
 234 network of providers, deliver service adequately to the members~~

235 ~~of such groups because of obligations to existing group contract~~
236 ~~holders and enrollees.~~

237 ~~2. A small employer carrier that cannot offer coverage~~
238 ~~pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.c. may not offer coverage in the~~
239 ~~applicable area to new cases of employer groups having more than~~
240 ~~50 eligible employees or small employer groups until the later~~
241 ~~of 180 days following each such refusal or the date on which the~~
242 ~~carrier notifies the office that it has regained its ability to~~
243 ~~deliver services to small employer groups.~~

244 ~~3.a. A small employer carrier may deny health insurance~~
245 ~~coverage in the small-group market if the carrier has~~
246 ~~demonstrated to the office that:~~

247 ~~(I) It does not have the financial reserves necessary to~~
248 ~~underwrite additional coverage; and~~

249 ~~(II) It is applying this sub-subparagraph uniformly to all~~
250 ~~employers in the small-group market in this state consistent~~
251 ~~with this section and without regard to the claims experience of~~
252 ~~those employers and their employees and their dependents or any~~
253 ~~health-status-related factor that relates to such employees and~~
254 ~~dependents.~~

255 ~~b. A small employer carrier, upon denying health insurance~~
256 ~~coverage in connection with health benefit plans in accordance~~
257 ~~with sub-subparagraph a., may not offer coverage in connection~~
258 ~~with group health benefit plans in the small-group market in~~
259 ~~this state for a period of 180 days after the date such coverage~~
260 ~~is denied or until the insurer has demonstrated to the office~~

261 ~~that the insurer has sufficient financial reserves to underwrite~~
262 ~~additional coverage, whichever is later. The office may provide~~
263 ~~for the application of this sub-subparagraph on a service-area-~~
264 ~~specific basis.~~

265 ~~4. The commission shall, by rule, require each small~~
266 ~~employer carrier to report, on or before March 1 of each year,~~
267 ~~its gross annual premiums for all health benefit plans issued to~~
268 ~~small employers during the previous calendar year, and also to~~
269 ~~report its gross annual premiums for new, but not renewal,~~
270 ~~standard and basic health benefit plans subject to this section~~
271 ~~issued during the previous calendar year. No later than May 1 of~~
272 ~~each year, the office shall calculate each carrier's percentage~~
273 ~~of all small employer group health premiums for the previous~~
274 ~~calendar year and shall calculate the aggregate gross annual~~
275 ~~premiums for new, but not renewal, standard and basic health~~
276 ~~benefit plans for the previous calendar year.~~

277 ~~(f)-(j)~~ The boundaries of geographic areas used by a small
278 employer carrier must coincide with county lines. A carrier may
279 not apply different geographic rating factors to the rates of
280 small employers located within the same county.

281 (6) RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO PREMIUM RATES.—

282 (b) For all small employer health benefit plans that are
283 subject to this section and issued by small employer carriers on
284 or after January 1, 1994, premium rates for health benefit plans
285 are subject to the following:

286 1. Small employer carriers must use a modified community

287 rating methodology in which the premium for each small employer
288 is determined solely on the basis of the eligible employee's and
289 eligible dependent's gender, age, family composition, tobacco
290 use, or geographic area as determined under paragraph (5) (f)
291 ~~(5) (j)~~ and in which the premium may be adjusted as permitted by
292 this paragraph. A small employer carrier is not required to use
293 gender as a rating factor for a nongrandfathered health plan.

294 2. Rating factors related to age, gender, family
295 composition, tobacco use, or geographic location may be
296 developed by each carrier to reflect the carrier's experience.
297 The factors used by carriers are subject to office review and
298 approval.

299 3. Small employer carriers may not modify the rate for a
300 small employer for 12 months from the initial issue date or
301 renewal date, unless the composition of the group changes or
302 benefits are changed. However, a small employer carrier may
303 modify the rate one time within the 12 months after the initial
304 issue date for a small employer who enrolls under a previously
305 issued group policy that has a common anniversary date for all
306 employers covered under the policy if:

307 a. The carrier discloses to the employer in a clear and
308 conspicuous manner the date of the first renewal and the fact
309 that the premium may increase on or after that date.

310 b. The insurer demonstrates to the office that
311 efficiencies in administration are achieved and reflected in the
312 rates charged to small employers covered under the policy.

313 4. A carrier may issue a group health insurance policy to
314 a small employer health alliance or other group association with
315 rates that reflect a premium credit for expense savings
316 attributable to administrative activities being performed by the
317 alliance or group association if such expense savings are
318 specifically documented in the insurer's rate filing and are
319 approved by the office. Any such credit may not be based on
320 different morbidity assumptions or on any other factor related
321 to the health status or claims experience of any person covered
322 under the policy. This subparagraph does not exempt an alliance
323 or group association from licensure for activities that require
324 licensure under the insurance code. A carrier issuing a group
325 health insurance policy to a small employer health alliance or
326 other group association shall allow any properly licensed and
327 appointed agent of that carrier to market and sell the small
328 employer health alliance or other group association policy. Such
329 agent shall be paid the usual and customary commission paid to
330 any agent selling the policy.

331 5. Any adjustments in rates for claims experience, health
332 status, or duration of coverage may not be charged to individual
333 employees or dependents. For a small employer's policy, such
334 adjustments may not result in a rate for the small employer
335 which deviates more than 15 percent from the carrier's approved
336 rate. Any such adjustment must be applied uniformly to the rates
337 charged for all employees and dependents of the small employer.
338 A small employer carrier may make an adjustment to a small

339 employer's renewal premium, up to 10 percent annually, due to
340 the claims experience, health status, or duration of coverage of
341 the employees or dependents of the small employer. ~~Semiannually,~~
342 ~~small group carriers shall report information on forms adopted~~
343 ~~by rule by the commission, to enable the office to monitor the~~
344 ~~relationship of aggregate adjusted premiums actually charged~~
345 ~~policyholders by each carrier to the premiums that would have~~
346 ~~been charged by application of the carrier's approved modified~~
347 ~~community rates.~~ If the aggregate resulting from the application
348 of such adjustment exceeds the premium that would have been
349 charged by application of the approved modified community rate
350 by 4 percent for the current policy term reporting period, the
351 carrier shall limit the application of such adjustments only to
352 minus adjustments ~~beginning within 60 days after the report is~~
353 ~~sent to the office.~~ For any subsequent policy term reporting
354 period, if the total aggregate adjusted premium actually charged
355 does not exceed the premium that would have been charged by
356 application of the approved modified community rate by 4
357 percent, the carrier may apply both plus and minus adjustments.
358 A small employer carrier may provide a credit to a small
359 employer's premium based on administrative and acquisition
360 expense differences resulting from the size of the group. Group
361 size administrative and acquisition expense factors may be
362 developed by each carrier to reflect the carrier's experience
363 and are subject to office review and approval.

364 6. A small employer carrier rating methodology may include

365 separate rating categories for one dependent child, for two
366 dependent children, and for three or more dependent children for
367 family coverage of employees having a spouse and dependent
368 children or employees having dependent children only. A small
369 employer carrier may have fewer, but not greater, numbers of
370 categories for dependent children than those specified in this
371 subparagraph.

372 7. Small employer carriers may not use a composite rating
373 methodology to rate a small employer with fewer than 10
374 employees. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term
375 "composite rating methodology" means a rating methodology that
376 averages the impact of the rating factors for age and gender in
377 the premiums charged to all of the employees of a small
378 employer.

379 8. A carrier may separate the experience of small employer
380 groups with fewer than 2 eligible employees from the experience
381 of small employer groups with 2-50 eligible employees for
382 purposes of determining an alternative modified community
383 rating.

384 a. If a carrier separates the experience of small employer
385 groups, the rate to be charged to small employer groups of fewer
386 than 2 eligible employees may not exceed 150 percent of the rate
387 determined for small employer groups of 2-50 eligible employees.
388 However, the carrier may charge excess losses of the experience
389 pool consisting of small employer groups with less than 2
390 eligible employees to the experience pool consisting of small

391 employer groups with 2-50 eligible employees so that all losses
392 are allocated and the 150-percent rate limit on the experience
393 pool consisting of small employer groups with less than 2
394 eligible employees is maintained.

395 b. Notwithstanding s. 627.411(1), the rate to be charged
396 to a small employer group of fewer than 2 eligible employees,
397 insured as of July 1, 2002, may be up to 125 percent of the rate
398 determined for small employer groups of 2-50 eligible employees
399 for the first annual renewal and 150 percent for subsequent
400 annual renewals.

401 9. A carrier shall separate the experience of
402 grandfathered health plans from nongrandfathered health plans
403 for determining rates.

404 (11) SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH REINSURANCE PROGRAM.—

405 (g) A reinsuring carrier may reinsure with the program
406 coverage of an eligible employee of a small employer, or any
407 dependent of such an employee, subject to each of the following
408 provisions:

409 ~~1. With respect to a standard and basic health care plan,~~
410 ~~the program must reinsure the level of coverage provided; and,~~
411 ~~with respect to any other plan, the program must reinsure the~~
412 ~~coverage up to, but not exceeding, the level of coverage~~
413 ~~provided under the standard and basic health care plan.~~

414 1.2. Except in the case of a late enrollee, a reinsuring
415 carrier may reinsure an eligible employee or dependent within 60
416 days after the commencement of the coverage of the small

417 employer. A newly employed eligible employee or dependent of a
418 small employer may be reinsured within 60 days after the
419 commencement of his or her coverage.

420 ~~2.3.~~ A small employer carrier may reinsure an entire
421 employer group within 60 days after the commencement of the
422 group's coverage under the plan. ~~The carrier may choose to~~
423 ~~reinsure newly eligible employees and dependents of the~~
424 ~~reinsured group pursuant to subparagraph 1.~~

425 ~~3.4.~~ The program may not reimburse a participating carrier
426 with respect to the claims of a reinsured employee or dependent
427 until the carrier has paid incurred claims of at least \$5,000 in
428 a calendar year for benefits covered by the program. In
429 addition, the reinsuring carrier shall be responsible for 10
430 percent of the next \$50,000 and 5 percent of the next \$100,000
431 of incurred claims during a calendar year and the program shall
432 reinsure the remainder.

433 ~~4.5.~~ The board annually shall adjust the initial level of
434 claims and the maximum limit to be retained by the carrier to
435 reflect increases in costs and utilization within the standard
436 market for health benefit plans within the state. The adjustment
437 shall not be less than the annual change in the medical
438 component of the "Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers"
439 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor,
440 unless the board proposes and the office approves a lower
441 adjustment factor.

442 ~~5.6.~~ A small employer carrier may terminate reinsurance

443 for all reinsured employees or dependents on any plan
444 anniversary.

445 ~~6.7.~~ The premium rate charged for reinsurance by the
446 program to a health maintenance organization that is approved by
447 the Secretary of Health and Human Services as a federally
448 qualified health maintenance organization pursuant to 42 U.S.C.
449 s. 300e(c)(2)(A) and that, as such, is subject to requirements
450 that limit the amount of risk that may be ceded to the program,
451 which requirements are more restrictive than subparagraph 3.4,
452 shall be reduced by an amount equal to that portion of the risk,
453 if any, which exceeds the amount set forth in subparagraph 3.4
454 which may not be ceded to the program.

455 ~~7.8.~~ The board may consider adjustments to the premium
456 rates charged for reinsurance by the program for carriers that
457 use effective cost containment measures, including high-cost
458 case management, as defined by the board.

459 ~~8.9.~~ A reinsuring carrier shall apply its case-management
460 and claims-handling techniques, including, but not limited to,
461 utilization review, individual case management, preferred
462 provider provisions, other managed care provisions or methods of
463 operation, consistently with both reinsured business and
464 nonreinsured business.

465 (h)1. The board, as part of the plan of operation, shall
466 establish a methodology for determining premium rates to be
467 charged by the program for reinsuring small employers and
468 individuals pursuant to this section. The methodology shall

469 include a system for classification of small employers that
470 reflects the types of case characteristics commonly used by
471 small employer carriers in the state. The methodology shall
472 provide for the development of basic reinsurance premium rates,
473 which shall be multiplied by the factors set for them in this
474 paragraph to determine the premium rates for the program. The
475 basic reinsurance premium rates shall be established by the
476 board, subject to the approval of the office, ~~and shall be set~~
477 ~~at levels which reasonably approximate gross premiums charged to~~
478 ~~small employers by small employer carriers for health benefit~~
479 ~~plans with benefits similar to the standard and basic health~~
480 ~~benefit plan.~~ The premium rates set by the board may vary by
481 geographical area, as determined under this section, to reflect
482 differences in cost. The multiplying factors must be established
483 as follows:

484 a. The entire group may be reinsured for a rate that is
485 1.5 times the rate established by the board.

486 b. An eligible employee or dependent may be reinsured for
487 a rate that is 5 times the rate established by the board.

488 2. The board periodically shall review the methodology
489 established, including the system of classification and any
490 rating factors, to assure that it reasonably reflects the claims
491 experience of the program. The board may propose changes to the
492 rates which shall be subject to the approval of the office.

493 (j)1. Before July 1 of each calendar year, the board shall
494 determine and report to the office the program net loss for the

495 previous year, including administrative expenses for that year,
496 and the incurred losses for the year, taking into account
497 investment income and other appropriate gains and losses.

498 2. Any net loss for the year shall be recouped by
499 assessment of the carriers, as follows:

500 a. The operating losses of the program shall be assessed
501 in the following order subject to the specified limitations. The
502 first tier of assessments shall be made against reinsuring
503 carriers in an amount which shall not exceed 5 percent of each
504 reinsuring carrier's premiums from health benefit plans covering
505 small employers. If such assessments have been collected and
506 additional moneys are needed, the board shall make a second tier
507 of assessments in an amount which shall not exceed 0.5 percent
508 of each carrier's health benefit plan premiums. Except as
509 provided in paragraph (m) ~~(n)~~, risk-assuming carriers are exempt
510 from all assessments authorized pursuant to this section. The
511 amount paid by a reinsuring carrier for the first tier of
512 assessments shall be credited against any additional assessments
513 made.

514 b. The board shall equitably assess carriers for operating
515 losses of the plan based on market share. The board shall
516 annually assess each carrier a portion of the operating losses
517 of the plan. The first tier of assessments shall be determined
518 by multiplying the operating losses by a fraction, the numerator
519 of which equals the reinsuring carrier's earned premium
520 pertaining to direct writings of small employer health benefit

521 plans in the state during the calendar year for which the
522 assessment is levied, and the denominator of which equals the
523 total of all such premiums earned by reinsuring carriers in the
524 state during that calendar year. The second tier of assessments
525 shall be based on the premiums that all carriers, except risk-
526 assuming carriers, earned on all health benefit plans written in
527 this state. The board may levy interim assessments against
528 carriers to ensure the financial ability of the plan to cover
529 claims expenses and administrative expenses paid or estimated to
530 be paid in the operation of the plan for the calendar year prior
531 to the association's anticipated receipt of annual assessments
532 for that calendar year. Any interim assessment is due and
533 payable within 30 days after receipt by a carrier of the interim
534 assessment notice. Interim assessment payments shall be credited
535 against the carrier's annual assessment. Health benefit plan
536 premiums and benefits paid by a carrier that are less than an
537 amount determined by the board to justify the cost of collection
538 may not be considered for purposes of determining assessments.

539 c. Subject to the approval of the office, the board shall
540 make an adjustment to the assessment formula for reinsuring
541 carriers that are approved as federally qualified health
542 maintenance organizations by the Secretary of Health and Human
543 Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s. 300e(c)(2)(A) to the extent,
544 if any, that restrictions are placed on them that are not
545 imposed on other small employer carriers.

546 3. Before July 1 of each year, the board shall determine

547 and file with the office an estimate of the assessments needed
548 to fund the losses incurred by the program in the previous
549 calendar year.

550 4. If the board determines that the assessments needed to
551 fund the losses incurred by the program in the previous calendar
552 year will exceed the amount specified in subparagraph 2., the
553 board shall evaluate the operation of the program and report its
554 findings, including any recommendations for changes to the plan
555 of operation, to the office within 180 days following the end of
556 the calendar year in which the losses were incurred. The
557 evaluation shall include an estimate of future assessments, the
558 administrative costs of the program, the appropriateness of the
559 premiums charged and the level of carrier retention under the
560 program, and the costs of coverage for small employers. If the
561 board fails to file a report with the office within 180 days
562 following the end of the applicable calendar year, the office
563 may evaluate the operations of the program and implement such
564 amendments to the plan of operation the office deems necessary
565 to reduce future losses and assessments.

566 5. If assessments exceed the amount of the actual losses
567 and administrative expenses of the program, the excess shall be
568 held as interest and used by the board to offset future losses
569 or to reduce program premiums. As used in this paragraph, the
570 term "future losses" includes reserves for incurred but not
571 reported claims.

572 6. Each carrier's proportion of the assessment shall be

573 determined annually by the board, based on annual statements and
574 other reports considered necessary by the board and filed by the
575 carriers with the board.

576 7. Provision shall be made in the plan of operation for
577 the imposition of an interest penalty for late payment of an
578 assessment.

579 8. A carrier may seek, from the office, a deferment, in
580 whole or in part, from any assessment made by the board. The
581 office may defer, in whole or in part, the assessment of a
582 carrier if, in the opinion of the office, the payment of the
583 assessment would place the carrier in a financially impaired
584 condition. If an assessment against a carrier is deferred, in
585 whole or in part, the amount by which the assessment is deferred
586 may be assessed against the other carriers in a manner
587 consistent with the basis for assessment set forth in this
588 section. The carrier receiving such deferment remains liable to
589 the program for the amount deferred and is prohibited from
590 reinsuring any individuals or groups in the program if it fails
591 to pay assessments.

592 ~~(1) The board, as part of the plan of operation, shall~~
593 ~~develop standards setting forth the manner and levels of~~
594 ~~compensation to be paid to agents for the sale of basic and~~
595 ~~standard health benefit plans. In establishing such standards,~~
596 ~~the board shall take into consideration the need to assure the~~
597 ~~broad availability of coverages, the objectives of the program,~~
598 ~~the time and effort expended in placing the coverage, the need~~

599 ~~to provide ongoing service to the small employer, the levels of~~
600 ~~compensation currently used in the industry, and the overall~~
601 ~~costs of coverage to small employers selecting these plans.~~

602 (l)~~(m)~~ The board shall monitor compliance with this
603 section, including the market conduct of small employer
604 carriers, and shall report to the office any unfair trade
605 practices and misleading or unfair conduct by a small employer
606 carrier that has been reported to the board by agents,
607 consumers, or any other person. The office shall investigate all
608 reports and, upon a finding of noncompliance with this section
609 or of unfair or misleading practices, shall take action against
610 the small employer carrier as permitted under the insurance code
611 or chapter 641. The board is not given investigatory or
612 regulatory powers, but must forward all reports of cases or
613 abuse or misrepresentation to the office.

614 (m)~~(n)~~ Notwithstanding paragraph (j), the administrative
615 expenses of the program shall be recouped by assessment of risk-
616 assuming carriers and reinsuring carriers and such amounts shall
617 not be considered part of the operating losses of the plan for
618 the purposes of this paragraph. Each carrier's portion of such
619 administrative expenses shall be determined by multiplying the
620 total of such administrative expenses by a fraction, the
621 numerator of which equals the carrier's earned premium
622 pertaining to direct writing of small employer health benefit
623 plans in the state during the calendar year for which the
624 assessment is levied, and the denominator of which equals the

625 total of such premiums earned by all carriers in the state
 626 during such calendar year.

627 (n)~~(e)~~ The board shall advise the office, the Agency for
 628 Health Care Administration, the department, other executive
 629 departments, and the Legislature on health insurance issues.
 630 Specifically, the board shall:

631 1. Provide a forum for stakeholders, consisting of
 632 insurers, employers, agents, consumers, and regulators, in the
 633 private health insurance market in this state.

634 2. Review and recommend strategies to improve the
 635 functioning of the health insurance markets in this state with a
 636 specific focus on market stability, access, and pricing.

637 3. Make recommendations to the office for legislation
 638 addressing health insurance market issues and provide comments
 639 on health insurance legislation proposed by the office.

640 4. Meet at least three times each year. One meeting shall
 641 be held to hear reports and to secure public comment on the
 642 health insurance market, to develop any legislation needed to
 643 address health insurance market issues, and to provide comments
 644 on health insurance legislation proposed by the office.

645 5. Issue a report to the office on the state of the health
 646 insurance market by September 1 each year. The report shall
 647 include recommendations for changes in the health insurance
 648 market, results from implementation of previous recommendations,
 649 and information on health insurance markets.

650 ~~(12) STANDARD, BASIC, HIGH DEDUCTIBLE, AND LIMITED HEALTH~~

651 ~~BENEFIT PLANS.—~~

652 ~~(a)1. The Chief Financial Officer shall appoint a health~~
653 ~~benefit plan committee composed of four representatives of~~
654 ~~carriers which shall include at least two representatives of~~
655 ~~HMOs, at least one of which is a staff model HMO, two~~
656 ~~representatives of agents, four representatives of small~~
657 ~~employers, and one employee of a small employer. The carrier~~
658 ~~members shall be selected from a list of individuals recommended~~
659 ~~by the board. The Chief Financial Officer may require the board~~
660 ~~to submit additional recommendations of individuals for~~
661 ~~appointment.~~

662 ~~2. The plans shall comply with all of the requirements of~~
663 ~~this subsection.~~

664 ~~3. The plans must be filed with and approved by the office~~
665 ~~prior to issuance or delivery by any small employer carrier.~~

666 ~~4. After approval of the revised health benefit plans, if~~
667 ~~the office determines that modifications to a plan might be~~
668 ~~appropriate, the Chief Financial Officer shall appoint a new~~
669 ~~health benefit plan committee in the manner provided in~~
670 ~~subparagraph 1. to submit recommended modifications to the~~
671 ~~office for approval.~~

672 ~~(b)1. Each small employer carrier issuing new health~~
673 ~~benefit plans shall offer to any small employer, upon request, a~~
674 ~~standard health benefit plan, a basic health benefit plan, and a~~
675 ~~high deductible plan that meets the requirements of a health~~
676 ~~savings account plan as defined by federal law or a health~~

677 ~~reimbursement arrangement as authorized by the Internal Revenue~~
678 ~~Service, that meet the criteria set forth in this section.~~

679 ~~2. For purposes of this subsection, the terms "standard~~
680 ~~health benefit plan," "basic health benefit plan," and "high~~
681 ~~deductible plan" mean policies or contracts that a small~~
682 ~~employer carrier offers to eligible small employers that~~
683 ~~contain:~~

684 ~~a. An exclusion for services that are not medically~~
685 ~~necessary or that are not covered preventive health services;~~
686 ~~and~~

687 ~~b. A procedure for preauthorization by the small employer~~
688 ~~carrier, or its designees.~~

689 ~~3. A small employer carrier may include the following~~
690 ~~managed care provisions in the policy or contract to control~~
691 ~~costs:~~

692 ~~a. A preferred provider arrangement or exclusive provider~~
693 ~~organization or any combination thereof, in which a small~~
694 ~~employer carrier enters into a written agreement with the~~
695 ~~provider to provide services at specified levels of~~
696 ~~reimbursement or to provide reimbursement to specified~~
697 ~~providers. Any such written agreement between a provider and a~~
698 ~~small employer carrier must contain a provision under which the~~
699 ~~parties agree that the insured individual or covered member has~~
700 ~~no obligation to make payment for any medical service rendered~~
701 ~~by the provider which is determined not to be medically~~
702 ~~necessary. A carrier may use preferred provider arrangements or~~

703 ~~exclusive provider arrangements to the same extent as allowed in~~
704 ~~group products that are not issued to small employers.~~

705 ~~b. A procedure for utilization review by the small~~
706 ~~employer carrier or its designees.~~

707
708 ~~This subparagraph does not prohibit a small employer carrier~~
709 ~~from including in its policy or contract additional managed care~~
710 ~~and cost containment provisions, subject to the approval of the~~
711 ~~office, which have potential for controlling costs in a manner~~
712 ~~that does not result in inequitable treatment of insureds or~~
713 ~~subscribers. The carrier may use such provisions to the same~~
714 ~~extent as authorized for group products that are not issued to~~
715 ~~small employers.~~

716 ~~4. The standard health benefit plan shall include:~~

717 ~~a. Coverage for inpatient hospitalization;~~

718 ~~b. Coverage for outpatient services;~~

719 ~~c. Coverage for newborn children pursuant to s. 627.6575;~~

720 ~~d. Coverage for child care supervision services pursuant~~
721 ~~to s. 627.6579;~~

722 ~~e. Coverage for adopted children upon placement in the~~
723 ~~residence pursuant to s. 627.6578;~~

724 ~~f. Coverage for mammograms pursuant to s. 627.6613;~~

725 ~~g. Coverage for handicapped children pursuant to s.~~
726 ~~627.6615;~~

727 ~~h. Emergency or urgent care out of the geographic service~~
728 ~~area; and~~

729 ~~i. Coverage for services provided by a hospice licensed~~
730 ~~under s. 400.602 in cases where such coverage would be the most~~
731 ~~appropriate and the most cost-effective method for treating a~~
732 ~~covered illness.~~

733 ~~5. The standard health benefit plan and the basic health~~
734 ~~benefit plan may include a schedule of benefit limitations for~~
735 ~~specified services and procedures. If the committee develops~~
736 ~~such a schedule of benefits limitation for the standard health~~
737 ~~benefit plan or the basic health benefit plan, a small employer~~
738 ~~carrier offering the plan must offer the employer an option for~~
739 ~~increasing the benefit schedule amounts by 4 percent annually.~~

740 ~~6. The basic health benefit plan shall include all of the~~
741 ~~benefits specified in subparagraph 4.; however, the basic health~~
742 ~~benefit plan shall place additional restrictions on the benefits~~
743 ~~and utilization and may also impose additional cost containment~~
744 ~~measures.~~

745 ~~7. Sections 627.419(2), (3), and (4), 627.6574, 627.6612,~~
746 ~~627.66121, 627.66122, 627.6616, 627.6618, 627.668, and 627.66911~~
747 ~~apply to the standard health benefit plan and to the basic~~
748 ~~health benefit plan. However, notwithstanding said provisions,~~
749 ~~the plans may specify limits on the number of authorized~~
750 ~~treatments, if such limits are reasonable and do not~~
751 ~~discriminate against any type of provider.~~

752 ~~8. The high deductible plan associated with a health~~
753 ~~savings account or a health reimbursement arrangement shall~~
754 ~~include all the benefits specified in subparagraph 4.~~

755 ~~9. Each small employer carrier that provides for inpatient~~
756 ~~and outpatient services by allopathic hospitals may provide as~~
757 ~~an option of the insured similar inpatient and outpatient~~
758 ~~services by hospitals accredited by the American Osteopathic~~
759 ~~Association when such services are available and the osteopathic~~
760 ~~hospital agrees to provide the service.~~

761 ~~(c) If a small employer rejects, in writing, the standard~~
762 ~~health benefit plan, the basic health benefit plan, and the high~~
763 ~~deductible health savings account plan or a health reimbursement~~
764 ~~arrangement, the small employer carrier may offer the small~~
765 ~~employer a limited benefit policy or contract.~~

766 ~~(d)1. Upon offering coverage under a standard health~~
767 ~~benefit plan, a basic health benefit plan, or a limited benefit~~
768 ~~policy or contract for a small employer group, the small~~
769 ~~employer carrier shall provide such employer group with a~~
770 ~~written statement that contains, at a minimum:~~

771 ~~a. An explanation of those mandated benefits and providers~~
772 ~~that are not covered by the policy or contract;~~

773 ~~b. An explanation of the managed care and cost control~~
774 ~~features of the policy or contract, along with all appropriate~~
775 ~~mailing addresses and telephone numbers to be used by insureds~~
776 ~~in seeking information or authorization; and~~

777 ~~e. An explanation of the primary and preventive care~~
778 ~~features of the policy or contract.~~

779
780 ~~Such disclosure statement must be presented in a clear and~~

781 ~~understandable form and format and must be separate from the~~
782 ~~policy or certificate or evidence of coverage provided to the~~
783 ~~employer group.~~

784 ~~2. Before a small employer carrier issues a standard~~
785 ~~health benefit plan, a basic health benefit plan, or a limited~~
786 ~~benefit policy or contract, the carrier must obtain from the~~
787 ~~prospective policyholder a signed written statement in which the~~
788 ~~prospective policyholder:~~

789 ~~a. Certifies as to eligibility for coverage under the~~
790 ~~standard health benefit plan, basic health benefit plan, or~~
791 ~~limited benefit policy or contract;~~

792 ~~b. Acknowledges the limited nature of the coverage and an~~
793 ~~understanding of the managed care and cost control features of~~
794 ~~the policy or contract;~~

795 ~~c. Acknowledges that if misrepresentations are made~~
796 ~~regarding eligibility for coverage under a standard health~~
797 ~~benefit plan, a basic health benefit plan, or a limited benefit~~
798 ~~policy or contract, the person making such misrepresentations~~
799 ~~forfeits coverage provided by the policy or contract; and~~

800 ~~d. If a limited plan is requested, acknowledges that the~~
801 ~~prospective policyholder had been offered, at the time of~~
802 ~~application for the insurance policy or contract, the~~
803 ~~opportunity to purchase any health benefit plan offered by the~~
804 ~~carrier and that the prospective policyholder rejected that~~
805 ~~coverage.~~

806

807 ~~A copy of such written statement must be provided to the~~
 808 ~~prospective policyholder by the time of delivery of the policy~~
 809 ~~or contract, and the original of such written statement must be~~
 810 ~~retained in the files of the small employer carrier for the~~
 811 ~~period of time that the policy or contract remains in effect or~~
 812 ~~for 5 years, whichever is longer.~~

813 ~~3. Any material statement made by an applicant for~~
 814 ~~coverage under a health benefit plan which falsely certifies the~~
 815 ~~applicant's eligibility for coverage serves as the basis for~~
 816 ~~terminating coverage under the policy or contract.~~

817 ~~(c) A small employer carrier may not use any policy,~~
 818 ~~contract, form, or rate under this section, including~~
 819 ~~applications, enrollment forms, policies, contracts,~~
 820 ~~certificates, evidences of coverage, riders, amendments,~~
 821 ~~endorsements, and disclosure forms, until the insurer has filed~~
 822 ~~it with the office and the office has approved it under ss.~~
 823 ~~627.410 and 627.411 and this section.~~

824 ~~(12)-(13)~~ (12) STANDARDS TO ASSURE FAIR MARKETING.—

825 (a) Each small employer carrier shall actively market
 826 health benefit plan coverage, ~~including the basic and standard~~
 827 ~~health benefit plans,~~ including any subsequent modifications or
 828 additions to those plans, to eligible small employers in the
 829 state. ~~Before January 1, 1994, if a small employer carrier~~
 830 ~~denies coverage to a small employer on the basis of the health~~
 831 ~~status or claims experience of the small employer or its~~
 832 ~~employees or dependents, the small employer carrier shall offer~~

833 ~~the small employer the opportunity to purchase a basic health~~
834 ~~benefit plan and a standard health benefit plan. Beginning~~
835 ~~January 1, 1994,~~ Small employer carriers must offer and issue
836 all plans on a guaranteed-issue basis.

837 (b) A ~~No~~ small employer carrier or agent shall not,
838 directly or indirectly, engage in the following activities:

839 1. Encouraging or directing small employers to refrain
840 from filing an application for coverage with the small employer
841 carrier because of the health status, claims experience,
842 industry, occupation, or geographic location of the small
843 employer.

844 2. Encouraging or directing small employers to seek
845 coverage from another carrier because of the health status,
846 claims experience, industry, occupation, or geographic location
847 of the small employer.

848 (c) ~~The provisions of Paragraph (a)~~ does ~~shall~~ not apply
849 with respect to information provided by a small employer carrier
850 or agent to a small employer regarding the established
851 geographic service area or a restricted network provision of a
852 small employer carrier.

853 (d) A ~~No~~ small employer carrier shall not, directly or
854 indirectly, enter into any contract, agreement, or arrangement
855 with an agent that provides for or results in the compensation
856 paid to an agent for the sale of a health benefit plan to be
857 varied because of the health status, claims experience,
858 industry, occupation, or geographic location of the small

859 employer except if the compensation arrangement provides
 860 compensation to an agent on the basis of percentage of premium,
 861 provided that the percentage shall not vary because of the
 862 health status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or
 863 geographic area of the small employer.

864 ~~(e) A small employer carrier shall provide reasonable~~
 865 ~~compensation, as provided under the plan of operation of the~~
 866 ~~program, to an agent, if any, for the sale of a basic or~~
 867 ~~standard health benefit plan.~~

868 (e) ~~(f)~~ A ~~no~~ small employer carrier shall not terminate,
 869 fail to renew, or limit its contract or agreement of
 870 representation with an agent for any reason related to the
 871 health status, claims experience, occupation, or geographic
 872 location of the small employers placed by the agent with the
 873 small employer carrier unless the agent consistently engages in
 874 practices that violate this section or s. 626.9541.

875 (f) ~~(g)~~ A ~~no~~ small employer carrier or agent shall not
 876 induce or otherwise encourage a small employer to separate or
 877 otherwise exclude an employee from health coverage or benefits
 878 provided in connection with the employee's employment.

879 (g) ~~(h)~~ Denial by a small employer carrier of an
 880 application for coverage from a small employer shall be in
 881 writing and shall state the reason or reasons for the denial.

882 (h) ~~(i)~~ The commission may establish regulations setting
 883 forth additional standards to provide for the fair marketing and
 884 broad availability of health benefit plans to small employers in

885 this state.

886 (i)~~(j)~~ A violation of this section by a small employer
887 carrier or an agent is ~~shall be~~ an unfair trade practice under
888 s. 626.9541 or ss. 641.3903 and 641.3907.

889 (j)~~(k)~~ If a small employer carrier enters into a contract,
890 agreement, or other arrangement with a third-party administrator
891 to provide administrative, marketing, or other services relating
892 to the offering of health benefit plans to small employers in
893 this state, the third-party administrator shall be subject to
894 this section.

895 (13)~~(14)~~ DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

896 (a) In connection with the offering of a health benefit
897 plan to a small employer, a small employer carrier:

898 1. Shall make a reasonable disclosure to such employer, as
899 part of its solicitation and sales materials, of the
900 availability of information described in paragraph (b); and

901 2. Upon request of the small employer, provide such
902 information.

903 (b)1. Subject to subparagraph 3., with respect to a small
904 employer carrier that offers a health benefit plan to a small
905 employer, information described in this paragraph is information
906 that concerns:

907 a. The provisions of such coverage concerning an insurer's
908 right to change premium rates and the factors that may affect
909 changes in premium rates;

910 b. The provisions of such coverage that relate to

911 renewability of coverage;

912 c. The provisions of such coverage that relate to any
913 preexisting condition exclusions; and

914 d. The benefits and premiums available under all health
915 insurance coverage for which the employer is qualified.

916 2. Information required under this subsection shall be
917 provided to small employers in a manner determined to be
918 understandable by the average small employer, and shall be
919 sufficient to reasonably inform small employers of their rights
920 and obligations under the health insurance coverage.

921 3. An insurer is not required under this subsection to
922 disclose any information that is proprietary or a trade secret
923 under state law.

924 (14)~~(15)~~ SMALL EMPLOYERS ACCESS PROGRAM.—

925 (k) Benefits.~~The benefits provided by the plan shall be~~
926 ~~the same as the coverage required for small employers under~~
927 ~~subsection (12).~~ Upon the approval of the office, the insurer
928 may ~~also~~ establish an optional mutually supported benefit plan
929 that ~~which~~ is an alternative plan developed within a defined
930 geographic region of this state or any other such alternative
931 plan that ~~which~~ will carry out the intent of this subsection.
932 Any small employer carrier issuing new health benefit plans may
933 offer a benefit plan with coverages similar to, but not less
934 than, any alternative coverage plan developed pursuant to this
935 subsection.

936 (15)~~(16)~~ APPLICABILITY OF OTHER STATE LAWS.—

937 (a) Except as expressly provided in this section, a law
 938 requiring coverage for a specific health care service or
 939 benefit, or a law requiring reimbursement, utilization, or
 940 consideration of a specific category of licensed health care
 941 practitioner, does not apply to ~~a standard or basic health~~
 942 ~~benefit plan policy or contract~~ or a limited benefit policy or
 943 contract offered or delivered to a small employer unless that
 944 law is made expressly applicable to such policies or contracts.
 945 A law restricting or limiting deductibles, coinsurance,
 946 copayments, or annual or lifetime maximum payments does not
 947 apply to any health plan policy, ~~including a standard or basic~~
 948 ~~health benefit plan policy or contract~~, offered or delivered to
 949 a small employer unless such law is made expressly applicable to
 950 such policy or contract. ~~However, every small employer carrier~~
 951 ~~must offer to eligible small employers the standard benefit plan~~
 952 ~~and the basic benefit plan, as required by subsection (5), as~~
 953 ~~such plans have been approved by the office pursuant to~~
 954 ~~subsection (12).~~

955 ~~(b) Except as provided in this section, a standard or~~
 956 ~~basic health benefit plan policy or contract or limited benefit~~
 957 ~~policy or contract offered to a small employer is not subject to~~
 958 ~~any provision of this code which:~~

959 ~~1. Inhibits a small employer carrier from contracting with~~
 960 ~~providers or groups of providers with respect to health care~~
 961 ~~services or benefits;~~

962 ~~2. Imposes any restriction on a small employer carrier's~~

963 ~~ability to negotiate with providers regarding the level or~~
964 ~~method of reimbursing care or services provided under a health~~
965 ~~benefit plan; or~~

966 ~~3. Requires a small employer carrier to either include a~~
967 ~~specific provider or class of providers when contracting for~~
968 ~~health care services or benefits or to exclude any class of~~
969 ~~providers that is generally authorized by statute to provide~~
970 ~~such care.~~

971 (b)~~(e)~~ Any second tier assessment paid by a carrier
972 pursuant to paragraph (11)(j) may be credited against
973 assessments levied against the carrier pursuant to s. 627.6494.

974 (c)~~(d)~~ Notwithstanding chapter 641, a health maintenance
975 organization may ~~is authorized to~~ issue contracts providing
976 benefits equal to the ~~standard health benefit plan, the basic~~
977 ~~health benefit plan, and the limited benefit policy authorized~~
978 by this section.

979 (16)~~(17)~~ RESTRICTIONS ON COVERAGE.—

980 (a) A plan under which coverage is purchased in whole or
981 in part with any state or federal funds through an exchange
982 created pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and
983 Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, may not provide
984 coverage for an abortion, as defined in s. 390.011(1), except if
985 the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest, or in
986 the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder,
987 physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-
988 endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the

989 pregnancy itself, which would, as certified by a physician,
 990 place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is
 991 performed. Coverage is deemed to be purchased with state or
 992 federal funds if any tax credit or cost-sharing credit is
 993 applied toward the plan.

994 (b) This subsection does not prohibit a plan from
 995 providing any person or entity with separate coverage for an
 996 abortion if such coverage is not purchased in whole or in part
 997 with state or federal funds.

998 (c) As used in this section, the term "state" means this
 999 state or any political subdivision of the state.

1000 ~~(17)-(18)~~ RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The commission may adopt
 1001 rules to administer this section, including rules governing
 1002 compliance by small employer carriers and small employers.

1003 Section 2. Section 627.66997, Florida Statutes, is created
 1004 to read:

1005 627.66997 Stop-loss insurance.—

1006 (1) A self-insured health benefit plan established or
 1007 maintained by a small employer, as defined in s. 627.6699(3)(v),
 1008 is exempt from s. 627.6699 and may use a stop-loss insurance
 1009 policy issued to the employer. For purposes of this section, the
 1010 term "stop-loss insurance policy" means a health insurance
 1011 policy issued to a small employer which covers the small
 1012 employer's obligation for the excess cost of medical care on an
 1013 equivalent basis per employee provided under a self-insured
 1014 health benefit plan. Except as provided in subsection (2), a

1015 stop-loss insurance policy is exempt from s. 627.6699.
 1016 (2) A stop-loss insurance policy is subject to s. 627.6699
 1017 if the policy has an aggregate attachment point that is lower
 1018 than the greatest of:
 1019 (a) Two thousand dollars multiplied by the number of
 1020 employees;
 1021 (b) One hundred twenty percent of expected claims, as
 1022 determined by the stop-loss insurer in accordance with actuarial
 1023 standards of practice; or
 1024 (c) Twenty thousand dollars.
 1025 (3) A stop-loss insurance policy authorized under this
 1026 section must cover 100 percent of all claims equal to or above
 1027 the attachment point set forth in subsection (2).
 1028 (4) Health insurance carriers shall use a consistent basis
 1029 for determining the number of an employer's covered employees.
 1030 Such basis may include, but is not limited to, the average
 1031 number of employees employed annually or at a uniform time.
 1032 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 627.642, Florida
 1033 Statutes, is amended to read:
 1034 627.642 Outline of coverage.—
 1035 (3) In addition to the outline of coverage, a policy as
 1036 specified in s. 627.6699(3)(k) ~~627.6699(3)(1)~~ must be
 1037 accompanied by an identification card that contains, at a
 1038 minimum:
 1039 (a) The name of the organization issuing the policy or the
 1040 name of the organization administering the policy, whichever

1041 applies.

1042 (b) The name of the contract holder.

1043 (c) The type of plan only if the plan is filed in the
 1044 state, an indication that the plan is self-funded, or the name
 1045 of the network.

1046 (d) The member identification number, contract number, and
 1047 policy or group number, if applicable.

1048 (e) A contact phone number or electronic address for
 1049 authorizations and admission certifications.

1050 (f) A phone number or electronic address whereby the
 1051 covered person or hospital, physician, or other person rendering
 1052 services covered by the policy may obtain benefits verification
 1053 and information in order to estimate patient financial
 1054 responsibility, in compliance with privacy rules under the
 1055 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

1056 (g) The national plan identifier, in accordance with the
 1057 compliance date set forth by the federal Department of Health
 1058 and Human Services.

1059
 1060 The identification card must present the information in a
 1061 readily identifiable manner or, alternatively, the information
 1062 may be embedded on the card and available through magnetic
 1063 stripe or smart card. The information may also be provided
 1064 through other electronic technology.

1065 Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (7) and paragraph
 1066 (a) of subsection (8) of section 627.6475, Florida Statutes, are

1067 amended to read:

1068 627.6475 Individual reinsurance pool.—

1069 (7) INDIVIDUAL HEALTH REINSURANCE PROGRAM.—

1070 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
 1071 board and the office shall have all powers, duties, and
 1072 responsibilities with respect to carriers that issue and
 1073 reinsure individual health insurance, as specified for the board
 1074 and the office in s. 627.6699(11) with respect to small employer
 1075 carriers, including, but not limited to, the provisions of s.
 1076 627.6699(11) relating to:

1077 1. Use of assessments that exceed the amount of actual
 1078 losses and expenses.

1079 2. The annual determination of each carrier's proportion
 1080 of the assessment.

1081 3. Interest for late payment of assessments.

1082 4. Authority for the office to approve deferment of an
 1083 assessment against a carrier.

1084 5. Limited immunity from legal actions or carriers.

1085 6. Development of standards for compensation to be paid to
 1086 agents. Such standards shall be limited to those specifically
 1087 enumerated in s. 627.6699(12)(d) ~~627.6699(13)(d)~~.

1088 7. Monitoring compliance by carriers with this section.

1089 (8) STANDARDS TO ASSURE FAIR MARKETING.—

1090 (a) Each health insurance issuer that offers individual
 1091 health insurance shall actively market coverage to eligible
 1092 individuals in the state. The provisions of s. 627.6699(12)

1093 ~~627.6699(13)~~ that apply to small employer carriers that market
 1094 policies to small employers shall also apply to health insurance
 1095 issuers that offer individual health insurance with respect to
 1096 marketing policies to individuals.

1097 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 627.657, Florida
 1098 Statutes, is amended to read:

1099 627.657 Provisions of group health insurance policies.—

1100 (2) The medical policy as specified in s. 627.6699(3)(k)
 1101 ~~627.6699(3)(1)~~ must be accompanied by an identification card
 1102 that contains, at a minimum:

1103 (a) The name of the organization issuing the policy or
 1104 name of the organization administering the policy, whichever
 1105 applies.

1106 (b) The name of the certificateholder.

1107 (c) The type of plan only if the plan is filed in the
 1108 state, an indication that the plan is self-funded, or the name
 1109 of the network.

1110 (d) The member identification number, contract number, and
 1111 policy or group number, if applicable.

1112 (e) A contact phone number or electronic address for
 1113 authorizations and admission certifications.

1114 (f) A phone number or electronic address whereby the
 1115 covered person or hospital, physician, or other person rendering
 1116 services covered by the policy may obtain benefits verification
 1117 and information in order to estimate patient financial
 1118 responsibility, in compliance with privacy rules under the

1119 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

1120 (g) The national plan identifier, in accordance with the
 1121 compliance date set forth by the federal Department of Health
 1122 and Human Services.

1123
 1124 The identification card must present the information in a
 1125 readily identifiable manner or, alternatively, the information
 1126 may be embedded on the card and available through magnetic
 1127 stripe or smart card. The information may also be provided
 1128 through other electronic technology.

1129 Section 6. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
 1130 627.6571, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1131 627.6571 Guaranteed renewability of coverage.—

1132 (2) An insurer may nonrenew or discontinue a group health
 1133 insurance policy based only on one or more of the following
 1134 conditions:

1135 (e) In the case of an insurer that offers health insurance
 1136 coverage through a network plan, there is no longer any enrollee
 1137 in connection with such plan who lives, resides, or works in the
 1138 service area of the insurer or in the area in which the insurer
 1139 is authorized to do business and, ~~in the case of the small-group~~
 1140 ~~market, the insurer would deny enrollment with respect to such~~
 1141 ~~plan under s. 627.6699(5)(i).~~

1142 Section 7. Subsection (11) of section 627.6675, Florida
 1143 Statutes, is amended to read:

1144 627.6675 Conversion on termination of eligibility.—Subject

1145 to all of the provisions of this section, a group policy
1146 delivered or issued for delivery in this state by an insurer or
1147 nonprofit health care services plan that provides, on an
1148 expense-incurred basis, hospital, surgical, or major medical
1149 expense insurance, or any combination of these coverages, shall
1150 provide that an employee or member whose insurance under the
1151 group policy has been terminated for any reason, including
1152 discontinuance of the group policy in its entirety or with
1153 respect to an insured class, and who has been continuously
1154 insured under the group policy, and under any group policy
1155 providing similar benefits that the terminated group policy
1156 replaced, for at least 3 months immediately prior to
1157 termination, shall be entitled to have issued to him or her by
1158 the insurer a policy or certificate of health insurance,
1159 referred to in this section as a "converted policy." A group
1160 insurer may meet the requirements of this section by contracting
1161 with another insurer, authorized in this state, to issue an
1162 individual converted policy, which policy has been approved by
1163 the office under s. 627.410. An employee or member shall not be
1164 entitled to a converted policy if termination of his or her
1165 insurance under the group policy occurred because he or she
1166 failed to pay any required contribution, or because any
1167 discontinued group coverage was replaced by similar group
1168 coverage within 31 days after discontinuance.

1169 (11) ALTERNATIVE PLANS. ~~The insurer shall, in addition to~~
1170 ~~the option required by subsection (10), offer the standard~~

1171 ~~health benefit plan, as established pursuant to s. 627.6699(12).~~
 1172 The insurer may, at its option, ~~also~~ offer alternative plans for
 1173 group health conversion in addition to the plans required by
 1174 this section.

1175 Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
 1176 641.31074, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1177 641.31074 Guaranteed renewability of coverage.—

1178 (2) A health maintenance organization may nonrenew or
 1179 discontinue a contract based only on one or more of the
 1180 following conditions:

1181 (e) There is no longer any enrollee in connection with
 1182 such plan who lives, resides, or works in the service area of
 1183 the health maintenance organization or in the area in which the
 1184 health maintenance organization is authorized to do business
 1185 ~~and, in the case of the small group market, the organization~~
 1186 ~~would deny enrollment with respect to such plan under s.~~
 1187 ~~627.6699(5)(i).~~

1188 Section 9. Subsection (10) of section 641.3922, Florida
 1189 Statutes, is amended to read:

1190 641.3922 Conversion contracts; conditions.—Issuance of a
 1191 converted contract shall be subject to the following conditions:

1192 (10) ALTERNATE PLANS.—~~The health maintenance organization~~
 1193 ~~shall offer a standard health benefit plan as established~~
 1194 ~~pursuant to s. 627.6699(12).~~ The health maintenance organization
 1195 may, at its option, ~~also~~ offer alternative plans for group
 1196 health conversion in addition to those required by this section,

CS/HB 731

2015

1197 provided any alternative plan is approved by the office or is a
1198 converted policy, approved under s. 627.6675 and issued by an
1199 insurance company authorized to transact insurance in this
1200 state. Approval by the office of an alternative plan shall be
1201 based on compliance by the alternative plan with the provisions
1202 of this part and the rules promulgated thereunder, applicable
1203 provisions of the Florida Insurance Code and rules promulgated
1204 thereunder, and any other applicable law.

1205 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.