

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 1983** Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY MICOZZIE, DeLUCA, GODSHALL, GROVE, KILLION,
CLYMER, HALUSKA, HESS, MILLARD, MURPHY, READSHAW, REICHLEY,
STURLA, VULAKOVICH, BARBIN AND D. COSTA, NOVEMBER 15, 2011

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 16, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 18, 1996 (P.L.1066, No.159),
2 entitled "An act providing for review procedures pertaining
3 to accident and health insurance form and rate filings;
4 providing penalties; and making repeals," dividing the act
5 into Federal compliance and Commonwealth exclusivity; in
6 Federal compliance, further providing for definitions, for
7 required filings, for review procedure, for notice of
8 disapproval, for use of disapproved forms or rates, for
9 review of form or rate disapproval, for disapproval after
10 use, for filing of provider contracts, for record
11 maintenance, for public comment and for penalties and
12 providing for regulations and for expiration; in Commonwealth
13 exclusivity, providing for regulations and for action by the
14 Insurance Commissioner; and making editorial changes.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. The act of December 18, 1996 (P.L.1066, No.159),
18 known as the Accident and Health Filing Reform Act, is amended
19 by adding a chapter heading to read:

20 CHAPTER 1

21 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

22 Section 2. Section 1 of the act is renumbered to read:
23 Section [1] 101. Short title.

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Accident and
2 Health Filing Reform Act.

3 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a chapter heading to
4 read:

5 CHAPTER 3

6 FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

7 Section 4. The introductory paragraph and the definitions of
8 "group accident and health insurance" and "insurer" in section 2
9 of the act are amended, the section is amended by adding a
10 definition and the section is renumbered to read:

11 Section [2] 301. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this [act]
13 chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section
14 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 "Group accident and health insurance." A form affording
17 insurance coverage against death, injury, disablement, disease
18 or sickness resulting from an accident and covering [more than
19 one person] a large or small group. The term shall not include
20 blanket accident insurance policies or franchise accident and
21 sickness insurance policies as defined in [section] sections
22 621.3 and 621.4 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284),
23 known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

24 * * *

25 "Insurer." A foreign or domestic company, association or
26 exchange, hospital plan corporation, professional health
27 services plan corporation, fraternal benefits society, health
28 maintenance organization and risk-assuming preferred provider
29 organization.

30 * * *

1 "Small group." A group that purchases accident and health
2 insurance in the small group market, as defined in section
3 2791(e) (5) of the Public Health Service Act (110 Stat. 1972, 42
4 U.S.C. § 300gg-91(e) (5)), provided, however, that for plan years
5 beginning prior to January 1, 2016, or other date as established
6 in Federal law, "50 employees" is substituted for "100
7 employees" in the definition of "small employer" in section
8 2791(e) (4) of the Public Health Service Act.

9 * * *

10 Section 4.1. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
11 Section 302. (Reserved).

12 Section 5. Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13
13 of the act are amended to read:

14 Section [3] 303. Required filings.

15 (a) Form filings.--Each insurer [and HMO] shall file with
16 the department any form which it proposes to issue in this
17 Commonwealth except a type or kind of form which, in the opinion
18 of the commissioner, does not require filing. The form filings
19 required by this section shall be made no less than 45 days, or
20 a shorter period of time as the department may establish, prior
21 to their effective dates. The filings shall be subject to filing
22 and review in accordance with the provisions of section 304.

23 (b) Notice of exemption from form filing.--The commissioner
24 shall issue notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin identifying any
25 type or kind of form which has been exempted from filing. The
26 commissioner may subsequently require the forms to be filed
27 under this section upon notice published in the Pennsylvania
28 Bulletin. Any such subsequent notice shall not be effective
29 until 90 days after publication.

30 (c) Individual rates.--Each insurer [and HMO] shall file

1 with the department rates for individual accident and health
2 insurance policies which it proposes to use in this Commonwealth
3 except those rates which, in the opinion of the commissioner,
4 cannot practicably be filed before they are used. The
5 commissioner shall publish notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin
6 identifying rates which the commissioner determines cannot
7 practicably be filed. The filings required by this subsection
8 shall be made no less than 45 days, or a shorter period of time
9 as the department may establish, prior to their effective dates.
10 The filings shall be subject to filing and review in accordance
11 with the provisions of section 304.

12 (d) Certain group rates exempt.--Except as provided in
13 subsection (e), an insurer shall not be required to file with
14 the department rates for accident and health insurance policies
15 which it proposes to issue on a group[, blanket or franchise]
16 basis in this Commonwealth.

17 (e) Required group rate filings.--Each [hospital plan
18 corporation, professional health services plan corporation and
19 HMO] insurer shall file with the department rates for small
20 group accident and health insurance policies which it proposes
21 to issue on a group[, blanket or franchise] basis in this
22 Commonwealth in accordance with the following:

23 (1) Each [hospital plan corporation, professional health
24 services plan corporation and HMO] insurer shall establish
25 and file with the department prior to use a base rate which
26 is not excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory. The
27 initial base rate for existing hospital plan corporations,
28 professional health services plan corporations and HMOs shall
29 be the rate or the rating formula currently on file and
30 approved by the department as of the effective date of [this

1 act] section 314. The initial base rate or base rating
2 formula for any [hospital plan corporation, professional
3 health services plan corporation or HMO] insurer with no base
4 rate or base rating formula on file and approved as of the
5 effective date of [this act] section 314 shall be [subject to
6 filing, review and prior approval by the department] the base
7 rate or base rating formula in effect on the effective date
8 of section 314, and shall be filed with the department no
9 more than 45 days thereafter.

10 (2) Proposed changes to [an approved] a base rate or
11 [any approved component of an approved] base rating formula
12 which effect an increase or decrease in the [approved] base
13 rate or [in an approved component of an approved] base rating
14 formula of [more than] 10% or more annually in the aggregate
15 shall be subject to filing[,] and review [and prior approval]
16 by the department in accordance with the provisions of
17 section 304. The filings required by this paragraph shall be
18 made no less than 45 days, or a shorter period of time as the
19 department may establish, prior to their effective dates.

20 (3) Proposed changes to [an approved] a base rate or
21 [any approved component of an approved] base rating formula
22 which effect an increase or decrease in the [approved] base
23 rate or [in an approved component of an approved] base rating
24 formula of [not more] less than 10% annually in the aggregate
25 shall be [subject to filing and review in accordance with the
26 provisions of section 4] filed with the department and may be
27 used 45 days thereafter.

28 (4) Rates developed for a specific group which do not
29 deviate from the base rate or base rate formula by more than
30 15% may be used without filing with the department.

1 (5) Rates developed for a specific group which deviate
2 from the base rate or base rate formula by more than 15%
3 shall be subject to filing and review in accordance with the
4 provisions of section [4] 304. The filings required by this
5 paragraph shall be made no less than 45 days, or a shorter
6 period of time as the department may establish, prior to
7 their effective dates.

8 (6) The commissioner shall have discretion to exempt any
9 type or kind of rate filing under this subsection by
10 regulation except for filings required under subsection (c)
11 and paragraph (2).

12 [(f) Applicability of filings.--All filings required by this
13 section shall be made no less than 45 days prior to their
14 effective dates. Filings under subsection (e)(1) and (2) shall
15 be deemed approved at the expiration of 45 days after filing
16 unless earlier approved or disapproved by the commissioner. The
17 commissioner, by written notice to the insurer, may within such
18 45-day period extend the period for approval or disapproval for
19 an additional 45 days. All other filings under this section
20 shall become effective as provided in section 4.]

21 (f) Power of the department.--The department may, at the
22 discretion of the commissioner through notice in the
23 Pennsylvania Bulletin, adjust the 10% threshold set forth in
24 subsection (e)(2) and (3) only for purposes of coordinating the
25 filing requirements of this section to a state-specific
26 percentage determined by the Secretary of the United States
27 Department of Health and Human Services.

28 Section [4] 304. Review procedure.

29 (a) General rule.--Filings under section 303(c) and (e)(1),
30 (2) and (5) shall be reviewed as appropriate and necessary to

1 carry out the provisions of this [act] chapter. [Unless a filing
2 is disapproved by the department within the 45-day period
3 provided in section 3(f), filings made under section 3 shall
4 become effective for use 45 days following:

5 (1) the expiration of any public comment period
6 established by the commissioner under section 11; or

7 (2) receipt of the filing by the department if no public
8 comment period is established.] The following apply:

9 (1) Unless a filing that is subject to review under
10 section 303(c) or (e) (1), (2) or (5) is earlier disapproved
11 by the department, or the department, by written notice to
12 the insurer, extends the period for approval or disapproval
13 for an additional 45 days, the filings shall be deemed
14 approved 45 days following receipt of the filing by the
15 department.

16 (2) Unless a resubmitted filing made under subsection
17 (c) is earlier disapproved by the department, the resubmitted
18 filing shall be deemed approved 30 days following receipt of
19 the resubmitted filing by the department.

20 (3) The department may hire the services of a competent
21 actuarial firm as reasonably necessary under any section of
22 this chapter to assist the department in the review of an
23 insurer's rate filing or resubmitted rate filing under
24 section 303(c) or (e) (1), (2) or (5). The reasonable and
25 necessary costs for the services shall be paid by the insurer
26 within 30 days of the insurer's receipt of a bill for the
27 services.

28 (4) An insurer intending to use any rate deemed approved
29 under this subsection shall provide written notice to the
30 department prior to use.

1 (b) Disapproval.--Disapproval of a filing shall be based
2 only on specific provisions of applicable law, regulation or
3 statement of policy or if insufficient information is submitted
4 to support the filing. Rates [filed under section 3(e)] shall
5 not be disapproved unless the rates are determined to be
6 excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.

7 (c) Resubmission.--A filing disapproved by the department
8 may be resubmitted within 120 days after the date of the
9 disapproval. [Filings resubmitted within this time shall become
10 effective for use 30 days after the receipt of the resubmission
11 by the department unless the filing is disapproved by the
12 department before the expiration of the 30-day period. This
13 subsection shall not apply to filings made prior to the
14 effective date of this act.]

15 (d) Disapproval of resubmissions.--Disapproval of a filing
16 resubmitted under subsection (c) shall be based only on specific
17 provisions of applicable law, regulation or statement of policy
18 or if insufficient information is submitted to support the
19 filing. Rates shall not be disapproved unless the rates are
20 determined to be excessive, inadequate or unfairly
21 discriminatory. Disapproval may not be based on any grounds not
22 specified in the initial disapproval issued by the department
23 except to the extent that new information is presented in the
24 resubmission.

25 (e) Subsequent resubmissions.--Any further resubmission
26 following a second disapproval shall be considered a new filing
27 [and reviewed in accordance with subsection (a)] under section
28 303.

29 (f) [Commissioner's] Department's discretion.--Nothing in
30 this section shall be construed to prevent the [commissioner]

1 department from affirmatively approving a filing at the
2 [commissioner's] department's discretion.

3 Section [5] 305. Notice of approval or disapproval.

4 (a) Requirement.--Upon the disapproval of any filing under
5 this [act] chapter, the department shall notify the insurer [or
6 HMO] of the disapproval in writing, specifying the reason or
7 reasons for such disapproval.

8 (b) Report.--A report of the approval or disapproval of a
9 rate filing subject to review under Federal law shall be
10 provided by the department to the United States Department of
11 Health and Human Services in a form and manner prescribed by the
12 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human
13 Services.

14 Section [6] 306. Use of disapproved forms or rates.

15 It shall be unlawful for any insurer [or HMO] to use in this
16 Commonwealth a form or rate disapproved under this [act]
17 chapter.

18 Section [7] 307. Review of form or rate disapproval.

19 (a) Request for hearing.--Within 30 days from the date of
20 mailing of a notice of disapproval of a filing under this [act]
21 chapter, the insurer [or HMO] may make a written application to
22 the commissioner for a hearing.

23 (b) Hearing.--Upon receipt of a timely written application
24 for hearing, the commissioner shall schedule and conduct a
25 hearing as provided in 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to
26 practice and procedure of Commonwealth agencies) and Ch. 7
27 Subch. A (relating to judicial review of Commonwealth agency
28 action). All of the actions which may be performed by the
29 commissioner in this section may be performed by the
30 commissioner's designated representative.

1 Section [8] 308. Disapproval after use.

2 (a) General rule.--Any form or rate filed and used [after
3 the expiration of the appropriate review period] under this
4 [act] chapter, whether or not subject to review under this
5 chapter, may be subsequently disapproved. The [commissioner]
6 department shall notify the insurer [or HMO] in writing and
7 provide the opportunity for a hearing as provided in 2 Pa.C.S.
8 Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to practice and procedure of
9 Commonwealth agencies) and Ch. 7 Subch. A (relating to judicial
10 review of Commonwealth agency action).

11 (b) Discontinuance of form.--If following a hearing the
12 commissioner finds that a form in use should be disapproved, the
13 commissioner shall order its use to be discontinued for any
14 policy issued after a date specified in the order.

15 (c) Discontinuance of rate.--If following a hearing the
16 commissioner finds that a rate in use should be disapproved, the
17 commissioner shall order its use to be discontinued
18 prospectively for any policy issued or renewed after a date
19 specified in the order.

20 (d) Suspension of forms.--Pending a hearing, the
21 commissioner may order the suspension of use of a form filed if
22 the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that:

23 (1) The form is contrary to applicable law, regulation
24 or statement of policy.

25 (2) Unless a suspension order is issued, insureds will
26 suffer substantial harm.

27 (3) The harm insureds will suffer outweighs any hardship
28 the insurer will suffer by the suspension of the use of the
29 form.

30 (4) The suspension order will result in no harm to the

1 public.

2 (e) Suspension of rates.--Pending a hearing, the
3 commissioner may order the suspension of use of a rate filed and
4 reinstate the last previous rate in effect if the commissioner
5 has reasonable cause to believe that:

6 (1) The rate is excessive, inadequate or unfairly
7 discriminatory under section [4(b)] 304(b).

8 (2) Unless a suspension order is issued, insureds will
9 suffer substantial harm.

10 (3) The harm insureds will suffer outweighs any hardship
11 the insurer will suffer by the suspension of the use of the
12 [form] rate.

13 (4) The suspension order will result in no harm to the
14 public.

15 Section [9] 309. Filing of provider contracts.

16 (a) Filing and review process.--Provider contracts shall be
17 filed by insurers and reviewed by the department as follows:

18 (1) Provider contracts shall be filed with the
19 department no later than 30 days prior to the effective date
20 specified in the contract.

21 (2) Provider contracts shall become effective unless
22 disapproved within 30 days following:

23 (i) the expiration of [the] any public comment
24 period established by the [commissioner] department under
25 section [11] 311; or

26 (ii) receipt of the filing by the department if no
27 public comment is established.

28 (3) The department may disapprove a provider contract
29 whenever it is determined that the contract:

30 (i) provides for excessive payments;

1 (ii) fails to include reasonable incentives for cost
2 control;
3 (iii) contributes to the escalation of the cost of
4 providing health care services; or
5 (iv) does not provide for the realization of
6 potential and achieved savings under the contract by
7 insureds/subscribers.

8 (b) Review of the disapproval.--Upon disapproval of a
9 provider contract under this section, the insurer may seek
10 review of the disapproval as provided in section [7] 307.

11 (c) Payment rates and fee information.--Provider contracts
12 filed under this section need not contain payment rates and fees
13 unless requested by the department. Payment rates and fees
14 requested by the department shall be given confidential
15 treatment, are not subject to subpoena and may not be made
16 public by the department, except that the payment rates and fee
17 information may be disclosed to the insurance department of
18 another state or to a law enforcement official of this State or
19 any other state or agency of the Federal Government at any time
20 so long as the agency or office receiving the information agrees
21 in writing to hold it confidential and in a manner consistent
22 with this [act] chapter.

23 (d) Disapproval of existing contract.--If at any time the
24 commissioner determines that a provider contract which has
25 become effective under this section violates the standards as
26 provided in subsection (a) (3), the commissioner may disapprove
27 the provider contract after notice and hearing as provided in 2
28 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to practice and procedure of
29 Commonwealth agencies) and Ch. 7 Subch. A (relating to judicial
30 review of Commonwealth agency action).

1 (e) Department of Health authority.--Nothing in this section
2 shall be construed to expand or limit the authority of the
3 Department of Health to review provider contracts under its
4 authority under the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364),
5 known as the Health Maintenance Organization Act, and section
6 630 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The
7 Insurance Company Law of 1921, and regulations promulgated
8 thereunder, including review of size of network and quality of
9 care provided.

10 Section [10] 310. Record maintenance.

11 Upon request, the [commissioner] department shall be provided
12 a copy of any form being issued in this Commonwealth. Insurers
13 [and HMOs] shall maintain complete and accurate specimen or
14 actual copies of all forms which are issued to Pennsylvania
15 residents, including copies of all applications, certificates
16 and endorsements used with policies. Retention of the forms may
17 be kept on diskette, microfiche or any other electronic method.
18 Specimen copies shall also indicate the date the form was first
19 issued in this Commonwealth. The records shall be maintained
20 until at least two years after a claim can no longer be reported
21 under the form.

22 Section [11] 311. Public comment.

23 [Public] (a) Certain rate filings.--A form of notice for
24 each rate filing subject to review under Federal law shall be
25 required to be provided by the filing insurer for posting on the
26 department's website. The form of notice shall satisfy the
27 requirements set forth in section 2794 of the Public Health
28 Service Act (110 Stat. 1972, 42 U.S.C. § 300gg-94) and any
29 regulations promulgated thereunder.

30 (b) Other filings.--Except as provided for under subsection

1 (a), public notice of filings made under this [act] chapter
2 shall not be required. At the [commissioner's] department's
3 discretion, however, notice of a filing may be published in the
4 Pennsylvania Bulletin [and a time period established for the
5 receipt of public comment by the department] or on the
6 department's website or on any other publicly accessible
7 electronic medium.

8 (c) Period for public comment.--At the department's
9 discretion, the department may establish a time period for the
10 receipt of public comment on any filing.

11 Section [12] 312. Required policy provisions.

12 (a) General rule.--An individual or group, blanket or
13 franchise form issued by a hospital plan corporation or
14 professional health services plan corporation shall also be
15 subject to the following provisions of the act of May 17, 1921
16 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921:

- 17 (1) Section 617.
- 18 (2) Section 618.
- 19 (3) Section 619.
- 20 (4) Section 619.1.
- 21 (5) Section 621.2(a) (6).
- 22 (6) Section 621.2(b) through (d).
- 23 (7) Section 621.3.
- 24 (8) Section 621.4.
- 25 (9) Section 621.5.
- 26 (10) Section 622.
- 27 (11) Section 625.
- 28 (12) Section 626.
- 29 (13) Section 628.

30 (b) Network-based programs.--Nothing in this [act] chapter

1 shall prohibit a hospital plan corporation or professional
2 health services plan corporation from establishing or offering
3 provider network-based programs under 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61
4 (relating to hospital plan corporations) or 63 (relating to
5 professional health services plan corporations).

6 Section [13] 313. Penalties.

7 (a) General rule.--Upon satisfactory evidence of the
8 violation of any section of this [act] chapter by an insurer[,
9 HMO] or any other person, one or more of the following penalties
10 may be imposed at the commissioner's discretion:

11 (1) Suspension or revocation of the license of the
12 offending insurer[, HMO] or other person.

13 (2) Refusal, for a period not to exceed one year, to
14 issue a new license to the offending insurer[, HMO] or other
15 person.

16 (3) A fine of not more than \$5,000 for each violation of
17 this [act] chapter.

18 (4) A fine of not more than \$10,000 for each willful
19 violation of this [act] chapter.

20 (5) A fine of not more than \$10,000 for each violation
21 of section [6] 306.

22 (6) A fine of not more than \$25,000 for each willful
23 violation of section [6] 306.

24 (b) Limitation.--Fines imposed against an individual insurer
25 under this [act] chapter shall not exceed \$500,000 in the
26 aggregate during a single calendar year.

27 Section 6. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

28 Section 314. Regulations.

29 The department may promulgate regulations as may be necessary
30 or appropriate to carry out this chapter.

1 Section 315. Expiration.

2 This chapter shall expire upon publication of the notice
3 under section 5103.

4 Section 7. The act is amended by adding a chapter to read:

5 CHAPTER 5

6 COMMONWEALTH EXCLUSIVITY

7 Section 501. (Reserved).

8 Section 502. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Commissioner." The Insurance Commissioner of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Company," "association" or "exchange." An entity defined in
15 section 101 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
16 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

17 "Department." The Insurance Department of the Commonwealth.

18 "Filing." A form or rate required by section 503.

19 "Form." A policy, contract, certificate, evidence of
20 coverage, application, rider or endorsement affording insurance
21 coverage or benefit against loss from sickness or loss or damage
22 from bodily injury or death of the insured by accident and each
23 modification of any of the above.

24 "Fraternal benefits society." An entity organized and
25 operating under Article XXIV of the act of May 17, 1921
26 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

27 "Group accident and health insurance." A form affording
28 insurance coverage against death, injury, disablement, disease
29 or sickness resulting from an accident and covering more than
30 one person. The term shall not include blanket accident

1 insurance policies as defined in section 621.3 of the act of May
2 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law
3 of 1921.

4 "Health care provider." A person, corporation, facility,
5 institution or other entity licensed, certified or approved by
6 the Commonwealth to provide health care or professional medical
7 services. The term includes, but is not limited to, physicians,
8 professional nurses, certified nurse-midwives, podiatrists,
9 hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory surgical centers or birth
10 centers.

11 "Health maintenance organization" or "HMO." An entity
12 organized and operating under the act of December 29, 1972
13 (P.L.1701, No.364), known as the Health Maintenance Organization
14 Act.

15 "Hospital plan corporation." An entity organized and
16 operating under 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan
17 corporations).

18 "Insurer." A foreign or domestic company, association or
19 exchange, hospital plan corporation, professional health
20 services plan corporation, fraternal benefits society and risk-
21 assuming preferred provider organization.

22 "Preferred provider organization." An entity organized and
23 operating under section 630 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682,
24 No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

25 "Professional health services plan corporation." An entity
26 organized and operating under 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to
27 professional health services plan corporations).

28 "Provider contracts." An agreement made between an insurer
29 and a health care provider regarding the provision of any
30 payment for health care services. The term shall not include

1 contracts or related documents which are subject to the
2 exclusive approval of the Department of Health under 40 Pa.C.S.
3 § 6324 (relating to rights of health service doctors) and
4 section 630 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
5 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

6 "Rate." A manual of classification, rules and rates, each
7 rating plan and each modification of any of the above.

8 "Statement of policy." A document as defined in 45 Pa.C.S. §
9 501 (relating to definitions), provided that the document has
10 been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

11 Section 503. Required filings.

12 (a) Form filings.--Each insurer and HMO shall file with the
13 department any form which it proposes to issue in this
14 Commonwealth except a type or kind of form which, in the opinion
15 of the commissioner, does not require filing.

16 (b) Notice of exemption from filing.--The commissioner shall
17 issue notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin identifying any type
18 or kind of form which has been exempted from filing. The
19 commissioner may subsequently require the forms to be filed
20 under this section upon notice published in the Pennsylvania
21 Bulletin. Any such subsequent notice shall not be effective
22 until 90 days after publication.

23 (c) Individual rates.--Each insurer and HMO shall file with
24 the department rates for individual accident and health
25 insurance policies which it proposes to use in this Commonwealth
26 except those rates which, in the opinion of the commissioner,
27 cannot practicably be filed before they are used. The
28 commissioner shall publish notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin
29 identifying rates which the commissioner determines cannot
30 practicably be filed.

1 (d) Certain group rates exempt.--Except as provided in
2 subsection (e), an insurer shall not be required to file with
3 the department rates for accident and health insurance policies
4 which it proposes to issue on a group, blanket or franchise
5 basis in this Commonwealth.

6 (e) Required group rate filings.--Each hospital plan
7 corporation, professional health services plan corporation and
8 HMO shall file with the department rates for accident and health
9 insurance policies which it proposes to issue on a group,
10 blanket or franchise basis in this Commonwealth in accordance
11 with the following:

12 (1) Each hospital plan corporation, professional health
13 services plan corporation and HMO shall establish a base rate
14 which is not excessive, inadequate or unfairly
15 discriminatory. The initial base rate for existing hospital
16 plan corporations, professional health services plan
17 corporations and HMOs shall be the rate or the rating formula
18 currently on file and approved by the department as of
19 February 17, 1997. The initial base rate or base rating
20 formula for any hospital plan corporation, professional
21 health services plan corporation or HMO with no base rate or
22 base rating formula on file and approved as of February 17,
23 1997, shall be subject to filing, review and prior approval
24 by the department.

25 (2) Proposed changes to an approved base rate or any
26 approved component of an approved rating formula which effect
27 an increase or decrease in the approved base rate or in an
28 approved component of an approved rating formula of more than
29 10% annually in the aggregate shall be subject to filing,
30 review and prior approval by the department.

1 (3) Proposed changes to an approved base rate or any
2 approved component of an approved rating formula that effect
3 an increase or decrease in the approved base rate or in an
4 approved component of an approved rating formula of not more
5 than 10% annually in the aggregate shall be subject to filing
6 and review in accordance with the provisions of section 504.

7 (4) Rates developed for a specific group which do not
8 deviate from the base rate or base rate formula by more than
9 15% may be used without filing with the department.

10 (5) Rates developed for a specific group which deviate
11 from the base rate or base rate formula by more than 15%
12 shall be subject to filing and review in accordance with the
13 provisions of section 504.

14 (6) The commissioner shall have discretion to exempt any
15 type or kind of rate filing under this subsection by
16 regulation.

17 (f) Applicability of filings.--All filings required by this
18 section shall be made no less than 45 days prior to their
19 effective dates. Filings under subsection (e)(1) and (2) shall
20 be deemed approved at the expiration of 45 days after filing
21 unless earlier approved or disapproved by the commissioner. The
22 commissioner, by written notice to the insurer, may within such
23 45-day period extend the period for approval or disapproval for
24 an additional 45 days. All other filings under this section
25 shall become effective as provided in section 504.

26 Section 504. Review procedure.

27 (a) General rule.--Filings shall be reviewed as appropriate
28 and necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
29 Unless a filing is disapproved by the department within the 45-
30 day period provided in section 503(f), filings made under

1 section 503 shall become effective for use 45 days following:

2 (1) the expiration of any public comment period
3 established by the commissioner under section 511; or

4 (2) receipt of the filing by the department if no public
5 comment period is established.

6 (b) Disapproval.--Disapproval of a filing shall be based
7 only on specific provisions of applicable law, regulation or
8 statement of policy or if insufficient information is submitted
9 to support the filing. Rates filed under section 503(e) shall
10 not be disapproved unless the rates are determined to be
11 excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.

12 (c) Resubmission.--A filing disapproved by the department
13 may be resubmitted within 120 days after the date of the
14 disapproval. Filings resubmitted within this time shall become
15 effective for use 30 days after the receipt of the resubmission
16 by the department unless the filing is disapproved by the
17 department before the expiration of the 30-day period. This
18 subsection shall not apply to filings made prior to February 17,
19 1997.

20 (d) Disapproval of resubmissions.--Disapproval of a filing
21 resubmitted under subsection (c) shall be based only on specific
22 provisions of applicable law, regulation or statement of policy
23 or if insufficient information is submitted to support the
24 filing. Disapproval may not be based on any grounds not
25 specified in the initial disapproval issued by the department
26 except to the extent that new information is presented in the
27 resubmission.

28 (e) Subsequent resubmissions.--Any further resubmission
29 following a second disapproval shall be considered a new filing
30 and reviewed in accordance with subsection (a).

1 (f) Commissioner's discretion.--Nothing in this section
2 shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from
3 affirmatively approving a filing at the commissioner's
4 discretion.

5 Section 505. Notice of disapproval.

6 Upon the disapproval of any filing under this chapter, the
7 department shall notify the insurer or HMO of the disapproval in
8 writing, specifying the reason or reasons for such disapproval.

9 Section 506. Use of disapproved forms or rates.

10 It shall be unlawful for any insurer or HMO to use in this
11 Commonwealth a form or rate disapproved under this chapter.

12 Section 507. Review of form or rate disapproval.

13 (a) Request for hearing.--Within 30 days from the date of
14 mailing of a notice of disapproval of a filing under this
15 chapter, the insurer or HMO may make a written application to
16 the commissioner for a hearing.

17 (b) Hearing.--Upon receipt of a timely written application
18 for hearing, the commissioner shall schedule and conduct a
19 hearing as provided in 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to
20 practice and procedure of Commonwealth agencies) and Ch. 7
21 Subch. A (relating to judicial review of Commonwealth agency
22 action). All of the actions which may be performed by the
23 commissioner in this section may be performed by the
24 commissioner's designated representative.

25 Section 508. Disapproval after use.

26 (a) General rule.--Any form or rate filed and used after the
27 expiration of the appropriate review period under this chapter
28 may be subsequently disapproved. The department shall notify the
29 insurer or HMO in writing and provide the opportunity for a
30 hearing as provided in 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to

1 practice and procedure of Commonwealth agencies) and Ch. 7
2 Subch. A (relating to judicial review of Commonwealth agency
3 action).

4 (b) Discontinuance of form.--If following a hearing the
5 commissioner finds that a form in use should be disapproved, the
6 commissioner shall order its use to be discontinued for any
7 policy issued after a date specified in the order.

8 (c) Discontinuance of rate.--If following a hearing the
9 commissioner finds that a rate in use should be disapproved, the
10 commissioner shall order its use to be discontinued
11 prospectively for any policy issued or renewed after a date
12 specified in the order.

13 (d) Suspension of forms.--Pending a hearing, the
14 commissioner may order the suspension of use of a form filed if
15 the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that:

16 (1) The form is contrary to applicable law, regulation
17 or statement of policy.

18 (2) Unless a suspension order is issued, insureds will
19 suffer substantial harm.

20 (3) The harm insureds will suffer outweighs any hardship
21 the insurer will suffer by the suspension of the use of the
22 form.

23 (4) The suspension order will result in no harm to the
24 public.

25 (e) Suspension of rates.--Pending a hearing, the
26 commissioner may order the suspension of use of a rate filed and
27 reinstate the last previous rate in effect if the commissioner
28 has reasonable cause to believe that:

29 (1) The rate is excessive, inadequate or unfairly
30 discriminatory under section 504(b).

1 (2) Unless a suspension order is issued, insureds will
2 suffer substantial harm.

3 (3) The harm insureds will suffer outweighs any hardship
4 the insurer will suffer by the suspension of the use of the
5 form.

6 (4) The suspension order will result in no harm to the
7 public.

8 Section 509. Filing of provider contracts.

9 (a) Filing and review process.--Provider contracts shall be
10 filed by insurers and reviewed by the department as follows:

11 (1) Provider contracts shall be filed with the
12 department no later than 30 days prior to the effective date
13 specified in the contract.

14 (2) Provider contracts shall become effective unless
15 disapproved within 30 days following:

16 (i) the expiration of the public comment period
17 established by the commissioner under section 511; or

18 (ii) receipt of the filing by the department if no
19 public comment is established.

20 (3) The department may disapprove a provider contract
21 whenever it is determined that the contract:

22 (i) provides for excessive payments;

23 (ii) fails to include reasonable incentives for cost
24 control;

25 (iii) contributes to the escalation of the cost of
26 providing health care services; or

27 (iv) does not provide for the realization of
28 potential and achieved savings under the contract by
29 insureds/subscribers.

30 (b) Review of the disapproval.--Upon disapproval of a

1 provider contract under this section, the insurer may seek
2 review of the disapproval as provided in section 507.

3 (c) Payment rates and fee information.--Provider contracts
4 filed under this section need not contain payment rates and fees
5 unless requested by the department. Payment rates and fees
6 requested by the department shall be given confidential
7 treatment, are not subject to subpoena and may not be made
8 public by the department, except that the payment rates and fee
9 information may be disclosed to the insurance department of
10 another state or to a law enforcement official of this State or
11 any other state or agency of the Federal Government at any time
12 so long as the agency or office receiving the information agrees
13 in writing to hold it confidential and in a manner consistent
14 with this chapter.

15 (d) Disapproval of existing contract.--If at any time the
16 commissioner determines that a provider contract which has
17 become effective under this section violates the standards as
18 provided in subsection (a) (3), the commissioner may disapprove
19 the provider contract after notice and hearing as provided in 2
20 Pa.C.S. Chs. 5 Subch. A (relating to practice and procedure of
21 Commonwealth agencies) and 7 Subch. A (relating to judicial
22 review of Commonwealth agency action).

23 (e) Department of Health authority.--Nothing in this section
24 shall be construed to expand or limit the authority of the
25 Department of Health to review provider contracts under its
26 authority under the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364),
27 known as the Health Maintenance Organization Act, and section
28 630 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The
29 Insurance Company Law of 1921, and regulations promulgated
30 thereunder, including review of size of network and quality of

1 care provided.

2 Section 510. Record maintenance.

3 Upon request, the department shall be provided a copy of any
4 form being issued in this Commonwealth. Insurers and HMOs shall
5 maintain complete and accurate specimen or actual copies of all
6 forms which are issued to residents of this Commonwealth,
7 including copies of all applications, certificates and
8 endorsements used with policies. Retention of the forms may be
9 kept on diskette, microfiche or any other electronic method.
10 Specimen copies shall also indicate the date the form was first
11 issued in this Commonwealth. The records shall be maintained
12 until at least two years after a claim can no longer be reported
13 under the form.

14 Section 511. Public comment.

15 Public notice of filings made under this chapter shall not be
16 required. At the commissioner's discretion, however, notice of a
17 filing may be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and a time
18 period established for the receipt of public comment by the
19 department.

20 Section 512. Required policy provisions.

21 (a) General rule.--An individual or group, blanket or
22 franchise form issued by a hospital plan corporation or
23 professional health services plan corporation shall also be
24 subject to the following provisions of the act of May 17, 1921
25 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921:

26 (1) Section 617.

27 (2) Section 618.

28 (3) Section 619.

29 (4) Section 619.1.

30 (5) Section 621.2(a)(6).

1 (6) Section 621.2(b), (c) and (d).

2 (7) Section 621.3.

3 (8) Section 621.4.

4 (9) Section 621.5.

5 (10) Section 622.

6 (11) Section 625.

7 (12) Section 626.

8 (13) Section 628.

9 (b) Network-based programs.--Nothing in this chapter shall
10 prohibit a hospital plan corporation or professional health
11 services plan corporation from establishing or offering provider
12 network-based programs under 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to
13 hospital plan corporations) or 63 (relating to professional
14 health services plan corporations).

15 Section 513. Penalties.

16 (a) General rule.--Upon satisfactory evidence of the
17 violation of any section of this chapter by an insurer, HMO or
18 any other person, one or more of the following penalties may be
19 imposed at the commissioner's discretion:

20 (1) Suspension or revocation of the license of the
21 offending insurer, HMO or other person.

22 (2) Refusal, for a period not to exceed one year, to
23 issue a new license to the offending insurer, HMO or other
24 person.

25 (3) A fine of not more than \$5,000 for each violation of
26 this chapter.

27 (4) A fine of not more than \$10,000 for each willful
28 violation of this chapter.

29 (5) A fine of not more than \$10,000 for each violation
30 of section 506.

1 (6) A fine of not more than \$25,000 for each willful
2 violation of section 506.

3 (b) Limitation.--Fines imposed against an individual insurer
4 under this chapter shall not exceed \$500,000 in the aggregate
5 during a single calendar year.

6 Section 514. Regulations.

7 The department may promulgate regulations as may be necessary
8 or appropriate to carry out this chapter.

9 Section 8. Sections 14 and 15 of the act are amended to
10 read:

11 Section [14] 5101. Repeals.

12 (a) Absolute.--The following acts and parts of acts are
13 repealed:

14 Sections 616 and the last sentence of section 621.5 of the
15 act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance
16 Company Law of 1921.

17 Section 3104 of the act of December 2, 1992 (P.L.741,
18 No.113), known as the Children's Health Care Act.

19 (b) Partial.--The following acts and parts of acts are
20 repealed to the extent specified:

21 Section 354 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284),
22 known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, insofar as it
23 provides for the approval of accident and health forms.

24 Section 621.2(a)(1) of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682,
25 No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, insofar as
26 it defines the number of employees in a group insurance policy.

27 Section 630(f) of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No. 284),
28 known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, insofar as it
29 provides for the approval of rates and forms.

30 Section 10(c) of the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701,

1 No.364), known as the Health Maintenance Organization Act,
2 insofar as it provides for the approval of rates and forms.

3 40 Pa.C.S. §§ 6124(a) and 6329(a), insofar as they provide
4 for the approval of rates and contracts.

5 Section [15] 5102. Applicability.

6 This act shall apply as follows:

7 (1) [Section 4] ~~Sections 304 and~~ SECTION 504 shall apply ←
8 to benefits forms filings for hospital plan corporations and
9 professional health services plan corporations made on or
10 after July 1, 1997.

11 (2) [Section 12] ~~Sections 312 and~~ SECTION 512 shall ←
12 apply to new forms issued after July 1, 1997.

13 (3) This act shall apply to all forms or rate filings
14 made and all provider contracts filed after [the effective
15 date of this act] February 17, 1997.

16 Section 9. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
17 Section 5103. Action by commissioner.

18 If Congress of the United States repeals section 1003 of the
19 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148,
20 42 U.S.C. § 300gg-94) or if the Supreme Court of the United
21 States invalidates section 1003 of the Patient Protection and
22 Affordable Care Act, the commissioner shall transmit notice of
23 that action to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication
24 in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

25 Section 10. Section 16 of the act is amended to read:
26 Section [16] 5104. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect in 60 days.

28 Section 11. This act shall take effect as follows:

29 (1) The following provisions shall take effect
30 immediately:

- 1 (i) The addition of section 5103 of the act.
- 2 (ii) This section.
- 3 (2) The addition of Chapter 5 of the act shall take
4 effect upon publication of the notice under section 5103 of
5 the act.
- 6 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 90
7 days.