

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill deals with the market rules that will apply to health carriers and health plans in connection with health coverage in Minnesota sold inside and outside of the exchange. These market rules involve Minnesota laws, federal laws under the Affordable Care Act, and provisions specifying how they will be coordinated.

Section

1 Title. Names this new chapter of laws “Minnesota Health Plan Market Rules.”

2 Purpose and scope.

Subd. 1. Purpose. Says the market rules provided in this chapter of laws are intended to clarify and provide guidance on the application of state and federal laws, including those enacted in the Affordable Care Act, in regard to health plans whether offered inside or outside of the exchange. Says the goals are to ensure a level playing field for health carriers, minimize adverse selection, and ensure consumer protection, high-quality affordable care, and improved health outcomes. References a provision of H.F. 5 and S.F. 1 as requiring that the state enact the types of market rules contained in this bill.

Subd. 2. Scope. Says this chapter applies to all health plans offered in the individual or small group market, except for short-term coverage.

3 Definitions. Defines eleven terms used in this bill.

4 Market rules; violation.

Section

Subd. 1. Compliance. Requires health carriers who issue health plans in Minnesota to comply with this chapter. Makes a violation subject to enforcement under section 72A.20. Excludes individual and small group health plans issued before 2015 and short-term coverage.

Subd. 2. Penalties. Says that violations of this chapter are subject to enforcement under section 45.027 and chapters 62D and 72A. (Chapter 62D governs HMOs, and section 45.027 and chapter 72A apply to other types of insurers.)

5 Federal act; conformity required. Requires health carriers to comply with the ACA to the extent it impose a requirement that applies in this state. Requires compliance as of the effective date stated in the ACA, unless required earlier under Minnesota law.

6 Metal level mandatory offerings.

Subd. 1. Identification. Requires a health carrier that offers an individual or small group health plan in Minnesota, whether inside or outside of the exchange, to provide proof that the health plan satisfies the “metal level” at which the health carrier wishes to market the health plan. The “metal level” refers to the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum designations that indicate the percent, from lowest (bronze 60 percent) to highest (platinum 90 percent), of the full actuarial value of the benefits covered by the health plan that the health plan will pay.

Subd. 2. Minimum levels. (a) Requires a health carrier that offers any individual or small group health plan in this state, either inside or outside of the exchange, to offer at least a silver level and a gold level to MN residents, and for each health plan offered, a children-only plan. (b) Exempts a health carrier that has less than five percent in either the individual or small group market in MN until 2020, unless the health carrier offers a qualified health plan through the exchange. If so, the health carrier must comply with paragraph (a).

Subd. 3. Minnesota Insurance Marketplace restriction. Prohibits the exchange from mandating the types of health plans to be offered by a health carrier to individuals or small groups purchasing outside of the exchange. Includes hearing, dental, and vision coverage.

Subd. 4. Metal level defined. States where in state statutes the metal levels are defined. That statute is in legislation that has not yet been enacted.

Subd. 5. Enforcement. Directs the commissioner of commerce to enforce this section.

Section

7 Information disclosures. (a) Lists eight types of information a health carrier must submit in a format determined by the commissioner of commerce. (b) Requires that health carriers that offer an individual or small group health plan comply with all information disclosure requirements of state and federal law, including the ACA. If federal and state law both impose disclosure requirements, the health carrier must comply with the one that provides greater consumer protection to MN residents. (c) Requires the commissioner of commerce to enforce this section.

8 Marketing standards.

Subd. 1. General. Requires a health carrier offering individual or small group coverage to comply with the ACA, including state marketing laws, and also to establish marketing practices and benefit designs that will not discourage enrollment of individuals who have significant health needs.

Subd. 2. Specific requirements. Requires that marketing materials provide detailed consumer protection information, including a warning required to be provided in bold print.

Subd. 3. Enforcement. Requires the commissioner of commerce to enforce this section.

9 Accreditation standards.

Subd. 1. Accreditation; general. Requires any health carrier that offers individual or small group health plans in this state outside of the exchange to be accredited under this subdivision. Requires that the accreditation be obtained by January 1, 2018, and mentions three sources of accreditation. Requires proof of accreditation to be submitted to the commissioner of health. Exempts from the requirement health carriers that have a market share of less than five percent in either the individual or small group market in this state, until January 1, 2020.

Subd. 2. Accreditation; Minnesota insurance marketplace. Requires the exchange to require all health carriers that offer a qualified health plan through the exchange to obtain certification no later than the third year after the first year the carrier offers a qualified health plan through the exchange. Requires a carrier to take the first step of the accreditation process in the first year in which it offers a QHP (in the exchange). Requires a carrier that offers a QHP (in the exchange) on January 1, 2014, to obtain accreditation by the end of the 2016 plan year. If a carrier cannot obtain accreditation because of low volume, permits the exchange to grant an exception until the carrier has enough enrollees.

Subd. 3. Enforcement. Requires the commissioner of health to enforce this section.

10 Geographic accessibility; provider network adequacy.

Section

Subd. 1. Applicability. Says this section applies to all carriers that offer an individual or small group plan that designates a network or networks of providers that are under contract to the carrier, or is a preferred provider organization.

Subd. 2. Primary care; mental health services; general hospital services. Requires that all three types of these services must be available to enrollees within 30 miles or thirty minutes to the nearest participating or preferred provider.

Subd. 3. Other health services. Requires specialty physician, ancillary, specialized hospital, and all other services (except those in subdivision 2) to be available within 60 miles or 60 minutes to the nearest participating or preferred provider.

Subd. 4. Network adequacy. Requires each “designated” provider network to include a sufficient number and types of providers to make sure covered services are available without delay. Requires the commissioner of health, when determining network adequacy, to consider the availability of five types of services listed in the subdivision.

Subd. 5. Waiver. Allows a health carrier or PPO to apply to the commissioner of health for a waiver of the requirements in subdivision 2 or 3 if unable to meet them. Requires the application to supply specific data showing that compliance is not feasible for the applicant.

Subd. 6. Referral centers. Says that subdivisions 2 and 3 do not apply if an enrollee is referred to a referral center. Defines a referral center and lists some factors that may be considered in designating one.

Subd. 7. Essential community providers. Requires each carrier to comply with section 62Q.19 in regard to access to covered services for low-income, high-risk, special-needs individuals or those living in a medical shortage area.

Subd. 8. Enforcement. Requires the commissioner of health to enforce this section.

- 11 Balance billing prohibited.** Prohibits a network provider from billing an enrollee for any amount in excess of the amount contracted as full payment between the health carrier and the provider. Permits billing for an approved co-payment, deductible, or coinsurance. Permits a network provider to bill the enrollee for services not covered by the health plan if the enrollee has agreed to that in advance.
- 12 Quality assurance and improvement.** Requires health carriers offering an individual or small group health plan to have a written internal quality assurance and improvement program. Lists six things that must be in that program. Requires the commissioner of health to submit a report to certain legislators by February 15, 2015, with recommendations for quality assurance and improvement standards for all carriers. Requires the commissioner of

Section

health to enforce this section.

- 13** **Service area requirements.** Requires carriers to offer individual and small group plans in service areas that are at least as large as a county, unless a smaller area is necessary, nondiscriminatory, and in the best interests of enrollees. Requires that the service area be established without regard to factors that exclude high utilizing, high-cost, or medically underserved populations. Requires requests to serve less than a county to be submitted to the commissioner of health and to provide data proving that the service area is not discriminatory, is necessary, and in the best interests of enrollees.
- 14** **Network provider directories.** Requires carriers to submit information on network providers to the exchange, for use by the exchange and the commissioner of health, at least quarterly, and more frequently if required by the exchange or the commissioner of health.
- 15** **Limited scope dental plans.** Requires that limited scope dental plans be offered on a guaranteed issue basis with premiums based on rating factors used for health plans. Requires that the plans make dental services available within 30 minutes or thirty miles. requires carriers that offer these plans to comply with sections 7, 8, 13, and 14 of this act.
- 16** **Designation.** Adds hospitals and hospital systems whose inpatients are mostly under age 21 to a list of essential community providers.