AN ACT concerning regulation.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Illinois Insurance Code is amended by changing Sections 121-2.08, 155.04, 174, 194, 368d, 370c.1, and 1563 and by renumbering and changing Section 356z.71 (as amended by Public Act 103-700) as follows:

(215 ILCS 5/121-2.08) (from Ch. 73, par. 733-2.08)

Sec. 121-2.08. Transactions in this State involving contracts of insurance independently procured directly from an unauthorized insurer by industrial insureds.

(a) As used in this Section:

"Exempt commercial purchaser" means exempt commercial purchaser as the term is defined in subsection (1) of Section 445 of this Code.

"Home state" means home state as the term is defined in subsection (1) of Section 445 of this Code.

"Industrial insured" means an insured:

(i) that procures the insurance of any risk or risks of the kinds specified in Classes 2 and 3 of Section 4 of this Code by use of the services of a full-time employee who is a qualified risk manager or the services of a regularly and continuously retained consultant who is a

qualified risk manager;

(ii) that procures the insurance ~~directly from an unauthorized insurer~~ without the services of an intermediary insurance producer; and

(iii) that is an exempt commercial purchaser whose home state is Illinois.

"Insurance producer" means insurance producer as the term is defined in Section 500-10 of this Code.

"Qualified risk manager" means qualified risk manager as the term is defined in subsection (1) of Section 445 of this Code.

"Safety-Net Hospital" means an Illinois hospital that qualifies as a Safety-Net Hospital under Section 5-5e.1 of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

"Unauthorized insurer" means unauthorized insurer as the term is defined in subsection (1) of Section 445 of this Code.

(b) For contracts of insurance procured directly from an unauthorized insurer effective January 1, 2015 or later, within 90 days after the effective date of each contract of insurance issued under this Section, the insured shall file a report with the Director by submitting the report to the Surplus Line Association of Illinois in writing or in a computer readable format and provide information as designated by the Surplus Line Association of Illinois. The information in the report shall be substantially similar to that required for surplus line submissions as described in subsection (5) of

Section 445 of this Code. Where applicable, the report shall satisfy, with respect to the subject insurance, the reporting requirement of Section 12 of the Fire Investigation Act.

(c) For contracts of insurance procured directly from an unauthorized insurer effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017, within 30 days after filing the report, the insured shall pay to the Director for the use and benefit of the State a sum equal to the gross premium of the contract of insurance multiplied by the surplus line tax rate, as described in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Section 445 of this Code, and shall pay the fire marshal tax that would otherwise be due annually in March for insurance subject to tax under Section 12 of the Fire Investigation Act. For contracts of insurance procured directly from an unauthorized insurer effective January 1, 2018 or later, within 30 days after filing the report, the insured shall pay to the Director for the use and benefit of the State a sum equal to 0.5% of the gross premium of the contract of insurance, and shall pay the fire marshal tax that would otherwise be due annually in March for insurance subject to tax under Section 12 of the Fire Investigation Act. For contracts of insurance procured directly from an unauthorized insurer effective January 1, 2015 or later, within 30 days after filing the report, the insured shall pay to the Surplus Line Association of Illinois a countersigning fee that shall be assessed at the same rate charged to members pursuant to subsection (4) of Section 445.1

of this Code.

(d) For contracts of insurance procured directly from an unauthorized insurer effective January 1, 2015 or later, the insured shall withhold the amount of the taxes and countersignature fee from the amount of premium charged by and otherwise payable to the insurer for the insurance. If the insured fails to withhold the tax and countersignature fee from the premium, then the insured shall be liable for the amounts thereof and shall pay the amounts as prescribed in subsection (c) of this Section.

(e) Contracts of insurance with an industrial insured that qualifies as a Safety-Net Hospital are not subject to subsections (b) through (d) of this Section.

(Source: P.A. 100-535, eff. 9-22-17; 100-1118, eff. 11-27-18.)

(215 ILCS 5/155.04) (from Ch. 73, par. 767.4)

Sec. 155.04. Standards for companies and officials.

(1) The Director shall not approve any declaration of organization or Articles of Incorporation or issue a Certificate of Authority to any company until he has found that:

(a) the company has submitted a sound plan of operation;~~, and~~

(b) the ~~general character and experience of the~~ incorporators, directors, and proposed officers ~~is such as to assure reasonable promise of a successful operation,~~

~~based on the fact that such persons~~ are of known good character and that there is no good reason to believe that they are affiliated, directly or indirectly, through ownership, control, management, reinsurance transactions or other insurance of business relations with any person or persons known to have been involved in the improper manipulation of assets, accounts or reinsurance; ~~.~~

(c) the general experience of the incorporators, directors, and proposed officers is enough to ensure the reasonable promise of a successful operation; and

(d) no financial concerns related to the company, its ownership, its associated group, or its affiliates have been identified that raise the possibility that the company will have solvency concerns or problems generating the necessary levels of capital and surplus.

The Director may require, in substantially the same form, the information required under Section 131.5 of this Code.

(2) All companies licensed to do business in this state must notify the Director within 30 days of the appointment or election of any new officers or directors.

(3) Except in cases where the Director deems that any officer or director meets the standards set forth in this section, he shall, after notice and hearing afforded to the officer or director, and after a finding that the officer or director is incompetent or untrustworthy or of known bad character, order the removal of the person. If a company does

not comply with a removal order within 30 days, the Director shall suspend that company's Certificate of Authority until such time as the order is complied with.

(4) It shall be unlawful for a company to borrow money or receive a loan or advance from anyone convicted of a felony, anyone who is untrustworthy or of known bad character or anyone convicted of a criminal offense involving the conversion or misappropriation of fiduciary funds or insurance accounts, theft, deceit, fraud, misrepresentation or corruption.

(Source: P.A. 89-97, eff. 7-7-95.)

(215 ILCS 5/174) (from Ch. 73, par. 786)

Sec. 174. Kinds of agreements requiring approval.

(1) The following kinds of reinsurance agreements shall not be entered into by any domestic company unless such agreements are approved in writing by the Director:

(a) Agreements of reinsurance of any such company transacting the kind or kinds of business enumerated in Class 1 of Section 4, or as a Fraternal Benefit Society under Article XVII, a Mutual Benefit Association under Article XVIII, a Burial Society under Article XIX or an Assessment Accident and Assessment Accident and Health Company under Article XXI, cedes previously issued and outstanding risks to any company, or cedes any risks to a company not authorized to transact business in this State,

or assumes any outstanding risks on which the aggregate reserves and claim liabilities exceed 20% ~~20 percent~~ of the aggregate reserves and claim liabilities of the assuming company, as reported in the preceding annual statement, for the business of either life or accident and health insurance.

(b) Any agreement or agreements of reinsurance whereby any company transacting the kind or kinds of business enumerated in either Class 2 or Class 3 of Section 4 cedes to any company or companies at one time, or during a period of six consecutive months more than 20% ~~twenty per centum~~ of the total amount of its net ~~previously retained~~ unearned premium reserve liability. The Director has the right to request additional filing review and approval of all contracts that contribute to the statutory threshold trigger. As used in this Section, "net unearned premium reserve liability" means a liability associated with existing or in-force business that is not ceded to any reinsurer before the effective date of the proposed reinsurance contract.

(c) (Blank).

(2) Requests for approval shall be filed at least 30 working days prior to the stated effective date of the agreement. An agreement which is not disapproved by the Director within 30 working ~~thirty~~ days after its complete submission shall be deemed approved.

(Source: P.A. 98-969, eff. 1-1-15.)

(215 ILCS 5/194) (from Ch. 73, par. 806)

Sec. 194. Rights and liabilities of creditors fixed upon liquidation.

(a) The rights and liabilities of the company and of its creditors, policyholders, stockholders or members and all other persons interested in its assets, except persons entitled to file contingent claims, shall be fixed as of the date of the entry of the Order directing liquidation or rehabilitation unless otherwise provided by Order of the Court. The rights of claimants entitled to file contingent claims or to have their claims estimated shall be determined as provided in Section 209.

(b) The Director may, within 2 years after the entry of an order for rehabilitation or liquidation or within such further time as applicable law permits, institute an action, claim, suit, or proceeding upon any cause of action against which the period of limitation fixed by applicable law has not expired at the time of filing of the complaint upon which the order is entered.

(c) The time between the filing of a complaint for conservation, rehabilitation, or liquidation against the company and the denial of the complaint shall not be considered to be a part of the time within which any action may be commenced against the company. Any action against the

company that might have been commenced when the complaint was filed may be commenced for at least 180 days after the complaint is denied.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Section, policies of life, disability income, long-term care, health insurance or annuities covered by a guaranty association, or portions of such policies covered by one or more guaranty associations under applicable law shall continue in force, subject to the terms of the policy (including any terms restructured pursuant to a court-approved rehabilitation plan) to the extent necessary to permit the guaranty associations to discharge their statutory obligations. Policies of life, disability income, long-term care, health insurance or annuities, or portions of such policies not covered by one or more guaranty associations shall terminate as provided under subsection (a) of this Section and paragraph (6) of Section 193 of this Article, except to the extent the Director proposes and the court approves the use of property of the liquidation estate for the purpose of either (1) continuing the contracts or coverage by transferring them to an assuming reinsurer, or (2) distributing dividends under Section 210 of this Article. Claims incurred during the extension of coverage provided for in this Article shall be classified at priority level (d) under paragraph (1) of Section 205 of this Article.

(Source: P.A. 88-297; 89-206, eff. 7-21-95.)

(215 ILCS 5/356z.73)

Sec. 356z.73 ~~356z.71~~. Insurance coverage for dependent parents.

(a) A group or individual policy of accident and health insurance issued, amended, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2026 that provides dependent coverage shall make that dependent coverage available to the parent or stepparent of the insured if the parent or stepparent meets the definition of a qualifying relative under 26 U.S.C. 152(d) and lives or resides within the accident and health insurance policy's service area.

(b) This Section does not apply to specialized health care service plans, Medicare supplement insurance, hospital-only policies, accident-only policies, or specified disease insurance policies that reimburse for hospital, medical, or surgical expenses.

(Source: P.A. 103-700, eff. 1-1-25; revised 12-3-24.)

(215 ILCS 5/368d)

Sec. 368d. Recoupments.

(a) A health care professional or health care provider shall be provided a remittance advice, which must include an explanation of a recoupment or offset taken by an insurer, health maintenance organization, independent practice association, or physician hospital organization, if any. The recoupment explanation shall, at a minimum, include the name

of the patient; the date of service; the service code or if no service code is available a service description; the recoupment amount; and the reason for the recoupment or offset. In addition, an insurer, health maintenance organization, independent practice association, or physician hospital organization shall provide with the remittance advice, or with any demand for recoupment or offset, a telephone number or mailing address to initiate an appeal of the recoupment or offset together with the deadline for initiating an appeal. Such information shall be prominently displayed on the remittance advice or written document containing the demand for recoupment or offset. Any appeal of a recoupment or offset by a health care professional or health care provider must be made within 60 days after receipt of the remittance advice.

(b) It is not a recoupment when a health care professional or health care provider is paid an amount prospectively or concurrently under a contract with an insurer, health maintenance organization, independent practice association, or physician hospital organization that requires a retrospective reconciliation based upon specific conditions outlined in the contract.

(c) No recoupment or offset may be requested or withheld from future payments 12 months or more after the original payment is made, except in cases in which:

(1) a court, government administrative agency, other

tribunal, or independent third-party arbitrator makes or has made a formal finding of fraud or material misrepresentation;

(2) an insurer is acting as a plan administrator for the Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan under the Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan Act;

(3) the provider has already been paid in full by any other payer, third party, or workers' compensation insurer; ~~or~~

(4) an insurer contracted with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services is required by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to recoup or offset payments due to a federal Medicaid requirement; or~~.~~

(5) the insurer has requested the recoupment or offset within 12 months, but the insurer and the health care professional or health care provider mutually agree to a different time limit for the recoupment or offset to be withheld from future payments.

No contract between an insurer and a health care professional or health care provider may provide for recoupments in violation of this Section. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to preclude insurers, health maintenance organizations, independent practice associations, or physician hospital organizations from resolving coordination of benefits between or among each other, including, but not limited to, resolution of workers' compensation and third-party liability

cases, without recouping payment from the provider beyond the 12-month ~~18-month~~ time limit provided in this subsection (c).

(Source: P.A. 102-632, eff. 1-1-22.)

(215 ILCS 5/370c.1)

Sec. 370c.1. Mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition parity.

(a) On and after July 23, 2021 (the effective date of Public Act 102-135), every insurer that amends, delivers, issues, or renews a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance or a qualified health plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace in this State providing coverage for hospital or medical treatment and for the treatment of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall ensure prior to policy issuance that:

(1) the financial requirements applicable to such mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant financial requirements applied to substantially all hospital and medical benefits covered by the policy and that there are no separate cost-sharing requirements that are applicable only with respect to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits; and

(2) the treatment limitations applicable to such

mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant treatment limitations applied to substantially all hospital and medical benefits covered by the policy and that there are no separate treatment limitations that are applicable only with respect to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits.

(b) The following provisions shall apply concerning aggregate lifetime limits:

(1) In the case of a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance or a qualified health plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace amended, delivered, issued, or renewed in this State on or after September 9, 2015 (the effective date of Public Act 99-480) that provides coverage for hospital or medical treatment and for the treatment of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions the following provisions shall apply:

(A) if the policy does not include an aggregate lifetime limit on substantially all hospital and medical benefits, then the policy may not impose any aggregate lifetime limit on mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits; or

(B) if the policy includes an aggregate lifetime limit on substantially all hospital and medical

benefits (in this subsection referred to as the "applicable lifetime limit"), then the policy shall either:

(i) apply the applicable lifetime limit both to the hospital and medical benefits to which it otherwise would apply and to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits and not distinguish in the application of the limit between the hospital and medical benefits and mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits; or

(ii) not include any aggregate lifetime limit on mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits that is less than the applicable lifetime limit.

(2) In the case of a policy that is not described in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Section and that includes no or different aggregate lifetime limits on different categories of hospital and medical benefits, the Director shall establish rules under which subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Section is applied to such policy with respect to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits by substituting for the applicable lifetime limit an average aggregate lifetime limit that is computed taking into account the weighted average of the aggregate

lifetime limits applicable to such categories.

(c) The following provisions shall apply concerning annual limits:

(1) In the case of a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance or a qualified health plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace amended, delivered, issued, or renewed in this State on or after September 9, 2015 (the effective date of Public Act 99-480) that provides coverage for hospital or medical treatment and for the treatment of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions the following provisions shall apply:

(A) if the policy does not include an annual limit on substantially all hospital and medical benefits, then the policy may not impose any annual limits on mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits; or

(B) if the policy includes an annual limit on substantially all hospital and medical benefits (in this subsection referred to as the "applicable annual limit"), then the policy shall either:

(i) apply the applicable annual limit both to the hospital and medical benefits to which it otherwise would apply and to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits and not distinguish in the application of

the limit between the hospital and medical benefits and mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits; or

(ii) not include any annual limit on mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits that is less than the applicable annual limit.

(2) In the case of a policy that is not described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of this Section and that includes no or different annual limits on different categories of hospital and medical benefits, the Director shall establish rules under which subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of this Section is applied to such policy with respect to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits by substituting for the applicable annual limit an average annual limit that is computed taking into account the weighted average of the annual limits applicable to such categories.

(d) With respect to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions, an insurer shall use policies and procedures for the election and placement of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition treatment drugs on their formulary that are no less favorable to the insured as those policies and procedures the insurer uses for the selection and placement of drugs for

medical or surgical conditions and shall follow the expedited coverage determination requirements for substance abuse treatment drugs set forth in Section 45.2 of the Managed Care Reform and Patient Rights Act.

(e) This Section shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with all applicable federal parity regulations including, but not limited to, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, final regulations issued under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and final regulations applying the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 to Medicaid managed care organizations, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and alternative benefit plans.

(f) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this Section shall not be interpreted to allow the use of lifetime or annual limits otherwise prohibited by State or federal law.

(g) As used in this Section:

"Financial requirement" includes deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximums, but does not include an aggregate lifetime limit or an annual limit subject to subsections (b) and (c).

"Mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition" means a condition or disorder that involves a mental health condition or substance use disorder that falls under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental

and behavioral disorders chapter of the current edition of the International Classification of Disease or that is listed in the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

"Treatment limitation" includes limits on benefits based on the frequency of treatment, number of visits, days of coverage, days in a waiting period, or other similar limits on the scope or duration of treatment. "Treatment limitation" includes both quantitative treatment limitations, which are expressed numerically (such as 50 outpatient visits per year), and nonquantitative treatment limitations, which otherwise limit the scope or duration of treatment. A permanent exclusion of all benefits for a particular condition or disorder shall not be considered a treatment limitation. "Nonquantitative treatment" means those limitations as described under federal regulations (26 CFR 54.9812-1). "Nonquantitative treatment limitations" include, but are not limited to, those limitations described under federal regulations 26 CFR 54.9812-1, 29 CFR 2590.712, and 45 CFR 146.136.

(h) The Department of Insurance shall implement the following education initiatives:

(1) By January 1, 2016, the Department shall develop a plan for a Consumer Education Campaign on parity. The Consumer Education Campaign shall focus its efforts throughout the State and include trainings in the

northern, southern, and central regions of the State, as defined by the Department, as well as each of the 5 managed care regions of the State as identified by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Under this Consumer Education Campaign, the Department shall: (1) by January 1, 2017, provide at least one live training in each region on parity for consumers and providers and one webinar training to be posted on the Department website and (2) establish a consumer hotline to assist consumers in navigating the parity process by March 1, 2017. By January 1, 2018 the Department shall issue a report to the General Assembly on the success of the Consumer Education Campaign, which shall indicate whether additional training is necessary or would be recommended.

(2) (Blank). ~~The Department, in coordination with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, shall convene a working group of health care insurance carriers, mental health advocacy groups, substance abuse patient advocacy groups, and mental health physician groups for the purpose of discussing issues related to the treatment and coverage of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and compliance with parity obligations under State and federal law. Compliance shall be measured, tracked, and shared during the meetings of the working group. The working group shall meet once before January 1,~~

~~2016 and shall meet semiannually thereafter. The Department shall issue an annual report to the General Assembly that includes a list of the health care insurance carriers, mental health advocacy groups, substance abuse patient advocacy groups, and mental health physician groups that participated in the working group meetings, details on the issues and topics covered, and any legislative recommendations developed by the working group.~~

(3) Not later than January 1 of each year, the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, shall issue a joint report to the General Assembly and provide an educational presentation to the General Assembly. The report and presentation shall:

(A) Cover the methodology the Departments use to check for compliance with the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. 18031(j), and any federal regulations or guidance relating to the compliance and oversight of the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and 42 U.S.C. 18031(j).

(B) Cover the methodology the Departments use to check for compliance with this Section and Sections 356z.23 and 370c of this Code.

(C) Identify market conduct examinations or, in the case of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, audits conducted or completed during the preceding 12-month period regarding compliance with parity in mental, emotional, nervous, and substance use disorder or condition benefits under State and federal laws and summarize the results of such market conduct examinations and audits. This shall include:

(i) the number of market conduct examinations and audits initiated and completed;

(ii) the benefit classifications examined by each market conduct examination and audit;

(iii) the subject matter of each market conduct examination and audit, including quantitative and nonquantitative treatment limitations; and

(iv) a summary of the basis for the final decision rendered in each market conduct examination and audit.

Individually identifiable information shall be excluded from the reports consistent with federal privacy protections.

(D) Detail any educational or corrective actions the Departments have taken to ensure compliance with the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, 42

U.S.C. 18031(j), this Section, and Sections 356z.23 and 370c of this Code.

(E) The report must be written in non-technical, readily understandable language and shall be made available to the public by, among such other means as the Departments find appropriate, posting the report on the Departments' websites.

(i) The Parity Advancement Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. Moneys from fines and penalties collected from insurers for violations of this Section shall be deposited into the Fund. Moneys deposited into the Fund for appropriation by the General Assembly to the Department shall be used for the purpose of providing financial support of the Consumer Education Campaign, parity compliance advocacy, and other initiatives that support parity implementation and enforcement on behalf of consumers.

(j) (Blank).

(j-5) The Department of Insurance shall collect the following information:

(1) The number of employment disability insurance plans offered in this State, including, but not limited to:

(A) individual short-term policies;

(B) individual long-term policies;

(C) group short-term policies; and

(D) group long-term policies.

(2) The number of policies referenced in paragraph (1) of this subsection that limit mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

(3) The average defined benefit period for the policies referenced in paragraph (1) of this subsection, both for those policies that limit and those policies that have no limitation on mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

(4) Whether the policies referenced in paragraph (1) of this subsection are purchased on a voluntary or non-voluntary basis.

(5) The identities of the individuals, entities, or a combination of the 2 that assume the cost associated with covering the policies referenced in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(6) The average defined benefit period for plans that cover physical disability and mental health and substance abuse without limitation, including, but not limited to:

(A) individual short-term policies;

(B) individual long-term policies;

(C) group short-term policies; and

(D) group long-term policies.

(7) The average premiums for disability income insurance issued in this State for:

(A) individual short-term policies that limit mental health and substance use disorder benefits;

(B) individual long-term policies that limit mental health and substance use disorder benefits;

(C) group short-term policies that limit mental health and substance use disorder benefits;

(D) group long-term policies that limit mental health and substance use disorder benefits;

(E) individual short-term policies that include mental health and substance use disorder benefits without limitation;

(F) individual long-term policies that include mental health and substance use disorder benefits without limitation;

(G) group short-term policies that include mental health and substance use disorder benefits without limitation; and

(H) group long-term policies that include mental health and substance use disorder benefits without limitation.

The Department shall present its findings regarding information collected under this subsection (j-5) to the General Assembly no later than April 30, 2024. Information regarding a specific insurance provider's contributions to the Department's report shall be exempt from disclosure under paragraph (t) of subsection (1) of Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act. The aggregated information gathered by the Department shall not be exempt from disclosure under paragraph

(t) of subsection (1) of Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act.

(k) An insurer that amends, delivers, issues, or renews a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance or a qualified health plan offered through the health insurance marketplace in this State providing coverage for hospital or medical treatment and for the treatment of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall submit an annual report, the format and definitions for which will be determined by the Department and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and posted on their respective websites, starting on September 1, 2023 and annually thereafter, that contains the following information separately for inpatient in-network benefits, inpatient out-of-network benefits, outpatient in-network benefits, outpatient out-of-network benefits, emergency care benefits, and prescription drug benefits in the case of accident and health insurance or qualified health plans, or inpatient, outpatient, emergency care, and prescription drug benefits in the case of medical assistance:

(1) A summary of the plan's pharmacy management processes for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits compared to those for other medical benefits.

(2) A summary of the internal processes of review for experimental benefits and unproven technology for mental,

emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits and those for other medical benefits.

(3) A summary of how the plan's policies and procedures for utilization management for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits compare to those for other medical benefits.

(4) A description of the process used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits and the process used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for medical and surgical benefits.

(5) Identification of all nonquantitative treatment limitations that are applied to both mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits and medical and surgical benefits within each classification of benefits.

(6) The results of an analysis that demonstrates that for the medical necessity criteria described in subparagraph (A) and for each nonquantitative treatment limitation identified in subparagraph (B), as written and in operation, the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the medical necessity criteria and each nonquantitative treatment limitation to mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits within each classification

of benefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the medical necessity criteria and each nonquantitative treatment limitation to medical and surgical benefits within the corresponding classification of benefits; at a minimum, the results of the analysis shall:

(A) identify the factors used to determine that a nonquantitative treatment limitation applies to a benefit, including factors that were considered but rejected;

(B) identify and define the specific evidentiary standards used to define the factors and any other evidence relied upon in designing each nonquantitative treatment limitation;

(C) provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine that the processes and strategies used to design each nonquantitative treatment limitation, as written, for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to design each nonquantitative treatment limitation, as written, for medical and surgical benefits;

(D) provide the comparative analyses, including

the results of the analyses, performed to determine that the processes and strategies used to apply each nonquantitative treatment limitation, in operation, for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorder or condition benefits are comparable to, and applied no more stringently than, the processes or strategies used to apply each nonquantitative treatment limitation, in operation, for medical and surgical benefits; and

(E) disclose the specific findings and conclusions reached by the insurer that the results of the analyses described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) indicate that the insurer is in compliance with this Section and the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and its implementing regulations, which includes 42 CFR Parts 438, 440, and 457 and 45 CFR 146.136 and any other related federal regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations.

(7) Any other information necessary to clarify data provided in accordance with this Section requested by the Director, including information that may be proprietary or have commercial value, under the requirements of Section 30 of the Viatical Settlements Act of 2009.

(l) An insurer that amends, delivers, issues, or renews a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance or a qualified health plan offered through the health insurance

marketplace in this State providing coverage for hospital or medical treatment and for the treatment of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions on or after January 1, 2019 (the effective date of Public Act 100-1024) shall, in advance of the plan year, make available to the Department or, with respect to medical assistance, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and to all plan participants and beneficiaries the information required in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of paragraph (6) of subsection (k). For plan participants and medical assistance beneficiaries, the information required in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of paragraph (6) of subsection (k) shall be made available on a publicly available website whose web address is prominently displayed in plan and managed care organization informational and marketing materials.

(m) In conjunction with its compliance examination program conducted in accordance with the Illinois State Auditing Act, the Auditor General shall undertake a review of compliance by the Department and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services with Section 370c and this Section. Any findings resulting from the review conducted under this Section shall be included in the applicable State agency's compliance examination report. Each compliance examination report shall be issued in accordance with Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act. A copy of each report shall also be delivered to the head of the applicable State agency and

posted on the Auditor General's website.

(Source: P.A. 102-135, eff. 7-23-21; 102-579, eff. 8-25-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 103-94, eff. 1-1-24; 103-105, eff. 6-27-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24.)

(215 ILCS 5/1563)

Sec. 1563. Fees. The fees required by this Article are as follows:

(1) Public adjuster license fee of $250 <u>for a person who is a resident of Illinois and $500 for a person who is not a resident of Illinois</u>, payable once every 2 years.

(2) Business entity license fee of $250, payable once every 2 years.

(3) Application fee of $50 for processing each request to take the written examination for a public adjuster license.

(Source: P.A. 100-863, eff. 8-14-18.)

Section 10. The Dental Care Patient Protection Act is amended by changing Section 75 as follows:

(215 ILCS 109/75)

Sec. 75. Application of other law.

(a) All provisions of this Act and other applicable law that are not in conflict with this Act shall apply to managed care dental plans and other persons subject to this Act. <u>To the</u>

extent that any provision of this Act or rule under this Act would prevent the application of any standard or requirement under the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act to a plan that is subject to both statutes, the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act shall supersede this Act.

(b) Solicitation of enrollees by a managed care entity granted a certificate of authority or its representatives shall not be construed to violate any provision of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health professionals.

(Source: P.A. 91-355, eff. 1-1-00.)

Section 15. The Network Adequacy and Transparency Act is amended by changing Sections 3, 5, 10, and 25 as follows:

(215 ILCS 124/3)

Sec. 3. Applicability of Act. This Act applies to an individual or group policy of health insurance coverage with a network plan amended, delivered, issued, or renewed in this State on or after January 1, 2019. This Act does not apply to an individual or group policy for excepted benefits or short-term, limited-duration health insurance coverage with a network plan. This Act does not apply to stand-alone dental plans. If federal law establishes network adequacy and transparency standards for stand-alone dental plans, the Department shall enforce those applicable federal requirements

~~, except to the extent that federal law establishes network adequacy and transparency standards for stand-alone dental plans, which the Department shall enforce for plans amended, delivered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025~~.

(Source: P.A. 103-650, eff. 1-1-25; 103-777, eff. 1-1-25; revised 11-26-24.)

(215 ILCS 124/5)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-650)

Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Authorized representative" means a person to whom a beneficiary has given express written consent to represent the beneficiary; a person authorized by law to provide substituted consent for a beneficiary; or the beneficiary's treating provider only when the beneficiary or his or her family member is unable to provide consent.

"Beneficiary" means an individual, an enrollee, an insured, a participant, or any other person entitled to reimbursement for covered expenses of or the discounting of provider fees for health care services under a program in which the beneficiary has an incentive to utilize the services of a provider that has entered into an agreement or arrangement with an issuer.

"Department" means the Department of Insurance.

"Director" means the Director of Insurance.

"Essential community provider" has the meaning given

~~ascribed~~ to that term in 45 CFR 156.235.

"Excepted benefits" has the meaning given ~~ascribed~~ to that term in 42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(c) and implementing regulations. "Excepted benefits" includes individual, group, or blanket coverage.

"Exchange" has the meaning given ~~ascribed~~ to that term in 45 CFR 155.20.

~~"Director" means the Director of Insurance.~~

"Family caregiver" means a relative, partner, friend, or neighbor who has a significant relationship with the patient and administers or assists the patient with activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, or other medical or nursing tasks for the quality and welfare of that patient.

"Group health plan" has the meaning given ~~ascribed~~ to that term in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

"Health insurance coverage" has the meaning given ~~ascribed~~ to that term in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. "Health insurance coverage" does not include any coverage or benefits under Medicare or under the medical assistance program established under Article V of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

"Issuer" means a "health insurance issuer" as defined in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

"Material change" means a significant reduction in the number of providers available in a network plan, including, but not limited to, a reduction of 10% or more in a specific type of providers within any county, the removal of a major health system that causes a network to be significantly different within any county from the network when the beneficiary purchased the network plan, or any change that would cause the network to no longer satisfy the requirements of this Act or the Department's rules for network adequacy and transparency.

"Network" means the group or groups of preferred providers providing services to a network plan.

"Network plan" means an individual or group policy of health insurance coverage that either requires a covered person to use or creates incentives, including financial incentives, for a covered person to use providers managed, owned, under contract with, or employed by the issuer or by a third party contracted to arrange, contract for, or administer such provider-related incentives for the issuer.

"Ongoing course of treatment" means (1) treatment for a life-threatening condition, which is a disease or condition for which likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted; (2) treatment for a serious acute condition, defined as a disease or condition requiring complex ongoing care that the covered person is currently receiving, such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy,

post-operative visits, or a serious and complex condition as defined under 42 U.S.C. 300gg-113(b)(2); (3) a course of treatment for a health condition that a treating provider attests that discontinuing care by that provider would worsen the condition or interfere with anticipated outcomes; (4) the third trimester of pregnancy through the post-partum period; (5) undergoing a course of institutional or inpatient care from the provider within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. 300gg-113(b)(1)(B); (6) being scheduled to undergo nonelective surgery from the provider, including receipt of preoperative or postoperative care from such provider with respect to such a surgery; (7) being determined to be terminally ill, as determined under 42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(A), and receiving treatment for such illness from such provider; or (8) any other treatment of a condition or disease that requires repeated health care services pursuant to a plan of treatment by a provider because of the potential for changes in the therapeutic regimen or because of the potential for a recurrence of symptoms.

"Preferred provider" means any provider who has entered, either directly or indirectly, into an agreement with an employer or risk-bearing entity relating to health care services that may be rendered to beneficiaries under a network plan.

"Providers" means physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, other health care professionals,

hospitals, or other health care institutions or facilities that provide health care services.

~~"Short-term, limited-duration insurance" means any type of accident and health insurance offered or provided within this State pursuant to a group or individual policy or individual certificate by a company, regardless of the situs state of the delivery of the policy, that has an expiration date specified in the contract that is fewer than 365 days after the original effective date. Regardless of the duration of coverage, "short term, limited duration insurance" does not include excepted benefits or any student health insurance coverage.~~

"Stand-alone dental plan" has the meaning given ~~ascribed~~ to that term in 45 CFR 156.400.

"Telehealth" has the meaning given to that term in Section 356z.22 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

"Telemedicine" has the meaning given to that term in Section 49.5 of the Medical Practice Act of 1987.

"Tiered network" means a network that identifies and groups some or all types of provider and facilities into specific groups to which different provider reimbursement, covered person cost-sharing or provider access requirements, or any combination thereof, apply for the same services.

~~"Woman's principal health care provider" means a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, or family practice.~~

(Source: P.A. 102-92, eff. 7-9-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22;

103-650, eff. 1-1-25.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-718)

Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Authorized representative" means a person to whom a beneficiary has given express written consent to represent the beneficiary; a person authorized by law to provide substituted consent for a beneficiary; or the beneficiary's treating provider only when the beneficiary or his or her family member is unable to provide consent.

"Beneficiary" means an individual, an enrollee, an insured, a participant, or any other person entitled to reimbursement for covered expenses of or the discounting of provider fees for health care services under a program in which the beneficiary has an incentive to utilize the services of a provider that has entered into an agreement or arrangement with an issuer ~~insurer~~.

"Department" means the Department of Insurance.

"Director" means the Director of Insurance.

"Essential community provider" has the meaning given to that term in 45 CFR 156.235.

"Excepted benefits" has the meaning given to that term in 42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(c) and implementing regulations. "Excepted benefits" includes individual, group, or blanket coverage.

"Exchange" has the meaning given to that term in 45 CFR 155.20.

"Family caregiver" means a relative, partner, friend, or neighbor who has a significant relationship with the patient and administers or assists the patient with activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, or other medical or nursing tasks for the quality and welfare of that patient.

"Group health plan" has the meaning given to that term in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

"Health insurance coverage" has the meaning given to that term in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. "Health insurance coverage" does not include any coverage or benefits under Medicare or under the medical assistance program established under Article V of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

"Issuer" means a "health insurance issuer" as defined in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. ~~"Insurer" means any entity that offers individual or group accident and health insurance, including, but not limited to, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, exclusive provider organizations, and other plan structures requiring network participation, excluding the medical assistance program under the Illinois Public Aid Code, the State employees group health insurance program, workers compensation insurance, and pharmacy benefit managers.~~

"Material change" means a significant reduction in the number of providers available in a network plan, including, but not limited to, a reduction of 10% or more in a specific type of providers within any county, the removal of a major health system that causes a network to be significantly different within any county from the network when the beneficiary purchased the network plan, or any change that would cause the network to no longer satisfy the requirements of this Act or the Department's rules for network adequacy and transparency.

"Network" means the group or groups of preferred providers providing services to a network plan.

"Network plan" means an individual or group policy of ~~accident and~~ health insurance coverage that either requires a covered person to use or creates incentives, including financial incentives, for a covered person to use providers managed, owned, under contract with, or employed by the issuer or by a third party contracted to arrange, contract for, or administer such provider-related incentives for the issuer ~~insurer~~.

"Ongoing course of treatment" means (1) treatment for a life-threatening condition, which is a disease or condition for which likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted; (2) treatment for a serious acute condition, defined as a disease or condition requiring complex ongoing care that the covered person is

currently receiving, such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, ~~or~~ post-operative visits, or a serious and complex condition as defined under 42 U.S.C. 300gg-113(b)(2); (3) a course of treatment for a health condition that a treating provider attests that discontinuing care by that provider would worsen the condition or interfere with anticipated outcomes; ~~or~~ (4) the third trimester of pregnancy through the post-partum period; (5) undergoing a course of institutional or inpatient care from the provider within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. 300gg-113(b)(1)(B); (6) being scheduled to undergo nonelective surgery from the provider, including receipt of preoperative or postoperative care from such provider with respect to such a surgery; (7) being determined to be terminally ill, as determined under 42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(A), and receiving treatment for such illness from such provider; or (8) any other treatment of a condition or disease that requires repeated health care services pursuant to a plan of treatment by a provider because of the potential for changes in the therapeutic regimen or because of the potential for a recurrence of symptoms.

"Preferred provider" means any provider who has entered, either directly or indirectly, into an agreement with an employer or risk-bearing entity relating to health care services that may be rendered to beneficiaries under a network plan.

"Providers" means physicians licensed to practice medicine

in all its branches, other health care professionals, hospitals, or other health care institutions or facilities that provide health care services.

"Stand-alone dental plan" has the meaning given to that term in 45 CFR 156.400.

"Telehealth" has the meaning given to that term in Section 356z.22 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

"Telemedicine" has the meaning given to that term in Section 49.5 of the Medical Practice Act of 1987.

"Tiered network" means a network that identifies and groups some or all types of provider and facilities into specific groups to which different provider reimbursement, covered person cost-sharing or provider access requirements, or any combination thereof, apply for the same services.

(Source: P.A. 102-92, eff. 7-9-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 103-718, eff. 7-19-24.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-777)

Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Authorized representative" means a person to whom a beneficiary has given express written consent to represent the beneficiary; a person authorized by law to provide substituted consent for a beneficiary; or the beneficiary's treating provider only when the beneficiary or his or her family member is unable to provide consent.

"Beneficiary" means an individual, an enrollee, an

insured, a participant, or any other person entitled to reimbursement for covered expenses of or the discounting of provider fees for health care services under a program in which the beneficiary has an incentive to utilize the services of a provider that has entered into an agreement or arrangement with an issuer ~~insurer~~.

"Department" means the Department of Insurance.

"Director" means the Director of Insurance.

"Essential community provider" has the meaning given to that term in 45 CFR 156.235.

"Excepted benefits" has the meaning given to that term in 42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(c) and implementing regulations. "Excepted benefits" includes individual, group, or blanket coverage.

"Exchange" has the meaning given to that term in 45 CFR 155.20.

"Family caregiver" means a relative, partner, friend, or neighbor who has a significant relationship with the patient and administers or assists the patient with activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, or other medical or nursing tasks for the quality and welfare of that patient.

"Group health plan" has the meaning given to that term in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

"Health insurance coverage" has the meaning given to that term in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability

and Accountability Act. "Health insurance coverage" does not include any coverage or benefits under Medicare or under the medical assistance program established under Article V of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

"Issuer" means a "health insurance issuer" as defined in Section 5 of the Illinois Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. ~~"Insurer" means any entity that offers individual or group accident and health insurance, including, but not limited to, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, exclusive provider organizations, and other plan structures requiring network participation, excluding the medical assistance program under the Illinois Public Aid Code, the State employees group health insurance program, workers compensation insurance, and pharmacy benefit managers.~~

"Material change" means a significant reduction in the number of providers available in a network plan, including, but not limited to, a reduction of 10% or more in a specific type of providers within any county, the removal of a major health system that causes a network to be significantly different within any county from the network when the beneficiary purchased the network plan, or any change that would cause the network to no longer satisfy the requirements of this Act or the Department's rules for network adequacy and transparency.

"Network" means the group or groups of preferred providers

providing services to a network plan.

"Network plan" means an individual or group policy of ~~accident and~~ health insurance coverage that either requires a covered person to use or creates incentives, including financial incentives, for a covered person to use providers managed, owned, under contract with, or employed by the issuer or by a third party contracted to arrange, contract for, or administer such provider-related incentives for the issuer ~~insurer~~.

"Ongoing course of treatment" means (1) treatment for a life-threatening condition, which is a disease or condition for which likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted; (2) treatment for a serious acute condition, defined as a disease or condition requiring complex ongoing care that the covered person is currently receiving, such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, ~~or~~ post-operative visits, or a serious and complex condition as defined under 42 U.S.C. 300gg-113(b)(2); (3) a course of treatment for a health condition that a treating provider attests that discontinuing care by that provider would worsen the condition or interfere with anticipated outcomes; ~~or~~ (4) the third trimester of pregnancy through the post-partum period; (5) undergoing a course of institutional or inpatient care from the provider within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. 300gg-113(b)(1)(B); (6) being scheduled to undergo nonelective surgery from the provider, including receipt of preoperative

or postoperative care from such provider with respect to such a surgery; (7) being determined to be terminally ill, as determined under 42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(A), and receiving treatment for such illness from such provider; or (8) any other treatment of a condition or disease that requires repeated health care services pursuant to a plan of treatment by a provider because of the potential for changes in the therapeutic regimen or because of the potential for a recurrence of symptoms.

"Preferred provider" means any provider who has entered, either directly or indirectly, into an agreement with an employer or risk-bearing entity relating to health care services that may be rendered to beneficiaries under a network plan.

"Providers" means physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, other health care professionals, hospitals, or other health care institutions or facilities that provide health care services.

~~"Short term, limited duration health insurance coverage has the meaning given to that term in Section 5 of the Short-Term, Limited-Duration Health Insurance Coverage Act.~~

"Stand-alone dental plan" has the meaning given to that term in 45 CFR 156.400.

"Telehealth" has the meaning given to that term in Section 356z.22 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

"Telemedicine" has the meaning given to that term in

Section 49.5 of the Medical Practice Act of 1987.

"Tiered network" means a network that identifies and groups some or all types of provider and facilities into specific groups to which different provider reimbursement, covered person cost-sharing or provider access requirements, or any combination thereof, apply for the same services.

~~"Woman's principal health care provider" means a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, or family practice.~~

(Source: P.A. 102-92, eff. 7-9-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 103-777, eff. 1-1-25.)

(215 ILCS 124/10)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-650)

Sec. 10. Network adequacy.

(a) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer providing a network plan shall file a description of all of the following with the Director:

(1) The written policies and procedures for adding providers to meet patient needs based on increases in the number of beneficiaries, changes in the patient-to-provider ratio, changes in medical and health care capabilities, and increased demand for services.

(2) The written policies and procedures for making referrals within and outside the network.

(3) The written policies and procedures on how the

network plan will provide 24-hour, 7-day per week access to network-affiliated primary care, emergency services, and obstetrical and gynecological health care professionals ~~women's principal health care providers~~.

An issuer shall not prohibit a preferred provider from discussing any specific or all treatment options with beneficiaries irrespective of the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ position on those treatment options or from advocating on behalf of beneficiaries within the utilization review, grievance, or appeals processes established by the issuer in accordance with any rights or remedies available under applicable State or federal law.

(b) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer must file for review a description of the services to be offered through a network plan. The description shall include all of the following:

(1) A geographic map of the area proposed to be served by the plan by county service area and zip code, including marked locations for preferred providers.

(2) As deemed necessary by the Department, the names, addresses, phone numbers, and specialties of the providers who have entered into preferred provider agreements under the network plan.

(3) The number of beneficiaries anticipated to be covered by the network plan.

(4) An Internet website and toll-free telephone number

for beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries to access current and accurate lists of preferred providers in each plan, additional information about the plan, as well as any other information required by Department rule.

(5) A description of how health care services to be rendered under the network plan are reasonably accessible and available to beneficiaries. The description shall address all of the following:

(A) the type of health care services to be provided by the network plan;

(B) the ratio of physicians and other providers to beneficiaries, by specialty and including primary care physicians and facility-based physicians when applicable under the contract, necessary to meet the health care needs and service demands of the currently enrolled population;

(C) the travel and distance standards for plan beneficiaries in county service areas; and

(D) a description of how the use of telemedicine, telehealth, or mobile care services may be used to partially meet the network adequacy standards, if applicable.

(6) A provision ensuring that whenever a beneficiary has made a good faith effort, as evidenced by accessing the provider directory, calling the network plan, and calling the provider, to utilize preferred providers for a

covered service and it is determined the issuer ~~insurer~~ does not have the appropriate preferred providers due to insufficient number, type, unreasonable travel distance or delay, or preferred providers refusing to provide a covered service because it is contrary to the conscience of the preferred providers, as protected by the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, the issuer shall ensure, directly or indirectly, by terms contained in the payer contract, that the beneficiary will be provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This paragraph (6) does not apply to: (A) a beneficiary who willfully chooses to access a non-preferred provider for health care services available through the panel of preferred providers, or (B) a beneficiary enrolled in a health maintenance organization. In these circumstances, the contractual requirements for non-preferred provider reimbursements shall apply unless Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code requires otherwise. In no event shall a beneficiary who receives care at a participating health care facility be required to search for participating providers under the circumstances described in subsection (b) or (b-5) of Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code except under the circumstances described in paragraph (2) of subsection (b-5).

(7) A provision that the beneficiary shall receive

emergency care coverage such that payment for this coverage is not dependent upon whether the emergency services are performed by a preferred or non-preferred provider and the coverage shall be at the same benefit level as if the service or treatment had been rendered by a preferred provider. For purposes of this paragraph (7), "the same benefit level" means that the beneficiary is provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This provision shall be consistent with Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(8) A limitation that complies with subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55 of the Prior Authorization Reform Act~~, if the plan provides that the beneficiary will incur a penalty for failing to pre-certify inpatient hospital treatment, the penalty may not exceed $1,000 per occurrence in addition to the plan cost sharing provisions~~.

(9) For a network plan to be offered through the Exchange in the individual or small group market, as well as any off-Exchange mirror of such a network plan, evidence that the network plan includes essential community providers in accordance with rules established by the Exchange that will operate in this State for the applicable plan year.

(c) The issuer shall demonstrate to the Director a minimum

ratio of providers to plan beneficiaries as required by the Department for each network plan.

(1) The minimum ratio of physicians or other providers to plan beneficiaries shall be established by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Department shall not establish ratios for vision or dental providers who provide services under dental-specific or vision-specific benefits, except to the extent provided under federal law for stand-alone dental plans. The Department shall consider establishing ratios for the following physicians or other providers:

(A) Primary Care;

(B) Pediatrics;

(C) Cardiology;

(D) Gastroenterology;

(E) General Surgery;

(F) Neurology;

(G) OB/GYN;

(H) Oncology/Radiation;

(I) Ophthalmology;

(J) Urology;

(K) Behavioral Health;

(L) Allergy/Immunology;

(M) Chiropractic;

(N) Dermatology;

(O) Endocrinology;

(P) Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT)/Otolaryngology;

(Q) Infectious Disease;

(R) Nephrology;

(S) Neurosurgery;

(T) Orthopedic Surgery;

(U) Physiatry/Rehabilitative;

(V) Plastic Surgery;

(W) Pulmonary;

(X) Rheumatology;

(Y) Anesthesiology;

(Z) Pain Medicine;

(AA) Pediatric Specialty Services;

(BB) Outpatient Dialysis; and

(CC) HIV.

(1.5) Beginning January 1, 2026, every issuer shall demonstrate to the Director that each in-network hospital has at least one radiologist, pathologist, anesthesiologist, and emergency room physician as a preferred provider in a network plan. The Department may, by rule, require additional types of hospital-based medical specialists to be included as preferred providers in each in-network hospital in a network plan.

(2) The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards, along with an

assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (c).

(3) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the minimum ratio for each provider type shall be no less than any such ratio established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes minimum provider ratios for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d) The network plan shall demonstrate to the Director maximum travel and distance standards and appointment

wait-time ~~wait time~~ standards for plan beneficiaries, which shall be established by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These standards shall consist of the maximum minutes or miles to be traveled by a plan beneficiary for each county type, such as large counties, metro counties, or rural counties as defined by Department rule.

The maximum travel time and distance standards must include standards for each physician and other provider category listed for which ratios have been established.

The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (d).

Notwithstanding any other law or Department rule, the maximum travel time and distance standards and appointment wait-time ~~wait time~~ standards shall be no greater than any such standards established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in

the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

If the federal area designations for the maximum time or distance or appointment wait-time ~~wait time~~ standards required are changed by the most recent Letter to Issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces, the Department shall post on its website notice of such changes and may amend its rules to conform to those designations if the Director deems appropriate.

If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes appointment wait-time standards for qualified health plans, including stand-alone dental plans, in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for the same types of qualified health plans for that plan year. If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes time and distance standards for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d-5)(1) Every issuer shall ensure that beneficiaries have timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions

in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 370c of the Illinois Insurance Code. Issuers shall use a comparable process, strategy, evidentiary standard, and other factors in the development and application of the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and those for the access to treatment for medical and surgical conditions. As such, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access shall equally be applied to treatment facilities and providers for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and specialists providing medical or surgical benefits pursuant to the parity requirements of Section 370c.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code and the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall, at a minimum, satisfy the following requirements:

(A) For beneficiaries residing in the metropolitan counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 30 minutes or 30 miles from the

beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(B) For beneficiaries residing in Illinois counties other than those counties listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment

and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(2) For beneficiaries residing in all Illinois counties, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive inpatient or residential treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions.

(3) If there is no in-network facility or provider available for a beneficiary to receive timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the network adequacy standards outlined in this subsection, the issuer shall provide necessary exceptions to its network to ensure admission and treatment with a provider or at a

treatment facility in accordance with the network adequacy standards in this subsection.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes or law requires more stringent standards for qualified health plans in the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, the federal standards shall control for all network plans for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market, is issued through a different type of Exchange, or is otherwise not issued through an Exchange.

(5) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes a more stringent standard in any county than specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the federal standard shall apply in lieu of the standard in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans for that plan year.

(e) Except for network plans solely offered as a group health plan, these ratio and time and distance standards apply to the lowest cost-sharing tier of any tiered network.

(f) The network plan may consider use of other health care service delivery options, such as telemedicine or telehealth, mobile clinics, and centers of excellence, or other ways of delivering care to partially meet the requirements set under this Section.

(g) Except for the requirements set forth in subsection (d-5), issuers who are not able to comply with the provider ratios, ~~and~~ time and distance standards, and ~~or~~ appointment wait-time ~~wait time~~ standards established under this Act or federal law may request an exception to these requirements from the Department. The Department may grant an exception in the following circumstances:

(1) if no providers or facilities meet the specific time and distance standard in a specific service area and the issuer (i) discloses information on the distance and travel time points that beneficiaries would have to travel beyond the required criterion to reach the next closest contracted provider outside of the service area and (ii) provides contact information, including names, addresses, and phone numbers for the next closest contracted provider or facility;

(2) if patterns of care in the service area do not support the need for the requested number of provider or facility type and the issuer provides data on local patterns of care, such as claims data, referral patterns, or local provider interviews, indicating where the beneficiaries currently seek this type of care or where the physicians currently refer beneficiaries, or both; or

(3) other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Department consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(h) Issuers are required to report to the Director any

material change to an approved network plan within 15 business days after the change occurs and any change that would result in failure to meet the requirements of this Act. The issuer shall submit a revised version of the portions of the network adequacy filing affected by the material change, as determined by the Director by rule, and the issuer shall attach versions with the changes indicated for each document that was revised from the previous version of the filing. Upon notice from the issuer, the Director shall reevaluate the network plan's compliance with the network adequacy and transparency standards of this Act. For every day past 15 business days that the issuer fails to submit a revised network adequacy filing to the Director, the Director may order a fine of $5,000 per day.

(i) If a network plan is inadequate under this Act with respect to a provider type in a county, and if the network plan does not have an approved exception for that provider type in that county pursuant to subsection (g), an issuer shall cover out-of-network claims for covered health care services received from that provider type within that county at the in-network benefit level and shall retroactively adjudicate and reimburse beneficiaries to achieve that objective if their claims were processed at the out-of-network level contrary to this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(j) If the Director determines that a network is

inadequate in any county and no exception has been granted under subsection (g) and the issuer does not have a process in place to comply with subsection (d-5), the Director may prohibit the network plan from being issued or renewed within that county until the Director determines that the network is adequate apart from processes and exceptions described in subsections (d-5) and (g). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to terminate any beneficiary's health insurance coverage under a network plan before the expiration of the beneficiary's policy period if the Director makes a determination under this subsection after the issuance or renewal of the beneficiary's policy or certificate because of a material change. Policies or certificates issued or renewed in violation of this subsection may subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per policy.

(k) For the Department to enforce any new or modified federal standard before the Department adopts the standard by rule, the Department must, no later than May 15 before the start of the plan year, give public notice to the affected health insurance issuers through a bulletin.

(Source: P.A. 102-144, eff. 1-1-22; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-650, eff. 1-1-25.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-656)

Sec. 10. Network adequacy.

(a) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network

plan, an issuer ~~An insurer~~ providing a network plan shall file a description of all of the following with the Director:

(1) The written policies and procedures for adding providers to meet patient needs based on increases in the number of beneficiaries, changes in the patient-to-provider ratio, changes in medical and health care capabilities, and increased demand for services.

(2) The written policies and procedures for making referrals within and outside the network.

(3) The written policies and procedures on how the network plan will provide 24-hour, 7-day per week access to network-affiliated primary care, emergency services, and obstetrical and gynecological health care professionals ~~women's principal health care providers~~.

An issuer ~~insurer~~ shall not prohibit a preferred provider from discussing any specific or all treatment options with beneficiaries irrespective of the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ position on those treatment options or from advocating on behalf of beneficiaries within the utilization review, grievance, or appeals processes established by the issuer ~~insurer~~ in accordance with any rights or remedies available under applicable State or federal law.

(b) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer ~~Insurers~~ must file for review a description of the services to be offered through a network plan. The description shall include all of the following:

(1) A geographic map of the area proposed to be served by the plan by county service area and zip code, including marked locations for preferred providers.

(2) As deemed necessary by the Department, the names, addresses, phone numbers, and specialties of the providers who have entered into preferred provider agreements under the network plan.

(3) The number of beneficiaries anticipated to be covered by the network plan.

(4) An Internet website and toll-free telephone number for beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries to access current and accurate lists of preferred providers in each plan, additional information about the plan, as well as any other information required by Department rule.

(5) A description of how health care services to be rendered under the network plan are reasonably accessible and available to beneficiaries. The description shall address all of the following:

(A) the type of health care services to be provided by the network plan;

(B) the ratio of physicians and other providers to beneficiaries, by specialty and including primary care physicians and facility-based physicians when applicable under the contract, necessary to meet the health care needs and service demands of the currently enrolled population;

(C) the travel and distance standards for plan beneficiaries in county service areas; and

(D) a description of how the use of telemedicine, telehealth, or mobile care services may be used to partially meet the network adequacy standards, if applicable.

(6) A provision ensuring that whenever a beneficiary has made a good faith effort, as evidenced by accessing the provider directory, calling the network plan, and calling the provider, to utilize preferred providers for a covered service and it is determined the issuer ~~insurer~~ does not have the appropriate preferred providers due to insufficient number, type, unreasonable travel distance or delay, or preferred providers refusing to provide a covered service because it is contrary to the conscience of the preferred providers, as protected by the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure, directly or indirectly, by terms contained in the payer contract, that the beneficiary will be provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This paragraph (6) does not apply to: (A) a beneficiary who willfully chooses to access a non-preferred provider for health care services available through the panel of preferred providers, or (B) a beneficiary enrolled in a health maintenance organization. In these circumstances,

the contractual requirements for non-preferred provider reimbursements shall apply unless Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code requires otherwise. In no event shall a beneficiary who receives care at a participating health care facility be required to search for participating providers under the circumstances described in subsection (b) or (b-5) of Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code except under the circumstances described in paragraph (2) of subsection (b-5).

(7) A provision that the beneficiary shall receive emergency care coverage such that payment for this coverage is not dependent upon whether the emergency services are performed by a preferred or non-preferred provider and the coverage shall be at the same benefit level as if the service or treatment had been rendered by a preferred provider. For purposes of this paragraph (7), "the same benefit level" means that the beneficiary is provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This provision shall be consistent with Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(8) A limitation that complies with subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55 of the Prior Authorization Reform Act.

(9) For a network plan to be offered through the Exchange in the individual or small group market, as well

as any off-Exchange mirror of such a network plan, evidence that the network plan includes essential community providers in accordance with rules established by the Exchange that will operate in this State for the applicable plan year.

(c) The issuer ~~network plan~~ shall demonstrate to the Director a minimum ratio of providers to plan beneficiaries as required by the Department for each network plan.

(1) The minimum ratio of physicians or other providers to plan beneficiaries shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Department shall not establish ratios for vision or dental providers who provide services under dental-specific or vision-specific benefits, except to the extent provided under federal law for stand-alone dental plans. The Department shall consider establishing ratios for the following physicians or other providers:

(A) Primary Care;

(B) Pediatrics;

(C) Cardiology;

(D) Gastroenterology;

(E) General Surgery;

(F) Neurology;

(G) OB/GYN;

(H) Oncology/Radiation;

(I) Ophthalmology;

(J) Urology;

(K) Behavioral Health;

(L) Allergy/Immunology;

(M) Chiropractic;

(N) Dermatology;

(O) Endocrinology;

(P) Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT)/Otolaryngology;

(Q) Infectious Disease;

(R) Nephrology;

(S) Neurosurgery;

(T) Orthopedic Surgery;

(U) Physiatry/Rehabilitative;

(V) Plastic Surgery;

(W) Pulmonary;

(X) Rheumatology;

(Y) Anesthesiology;

(Z) Pain Medicine;

(AA) Pediatric Specialty Services;

(BB) Outpatient Dialysis; and

(CC) HIV.

(1.5) Beginning January 1, 2026, every issuer shall demonstrate to the Director that each in-network hospital has at least one radiologist, pathologist, anesthesiologist, and emergency room physician as a

preferred provider in a network plan. The Department may, by rule, require additional types of hospital-based medical specialists to be included as preferred providers in each in-network hospital in a network plan.

(2) The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards, along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (c).

(3) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the minimum ratio for each provider type shall be no less than any such ratio established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes minimum provider ratios for

stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d) The network plan shall demonstrate to the Director maximum travel and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards for plan beneficiaries, which shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These standards shall consist of the maximum minutes or miles to be traveled by a plan beneficiary for each county type, such as large counties, metro counties, or rural counties as defined by Department rule.

The maximum travel time and distance standards must include standards for each physician and other provider category listed for which ratios have been established.

The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (d).

Notwithstanding any other law or Department rule, the maximum travel time and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards shall be no greater than any such standards established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the

federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

If the federal area designations for the maximum time or distance or appointment wait-time standards required are changed by the most recent Letter to Issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces, the Department shall post on its website notice of such changes and may amend its rules to conform to those designations if the Director deems appropriate.

If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes appointment wait-time standards for qualified health plans, including stand-alone dental plans, in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for the same types of qualified health plans for that plan year. If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes time and distance standards for stand-alone dental plans in the

type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d-5)(1) Every issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure that beneficiaries have timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 370c of the Illinois Insurance Code. Issuers ~~Insurers~~ shall use a comparable process, strategy, evidentiary standard, and other factors in the development and application of the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and those for the access to treatment for medical and surgical conditions. As such, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access shall equally be applied to treatment facilities and providers for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and specialists providing medical or surgical benefits pursuant to the parity requirements of Section 370c.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code and the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall, at a minimum, satisfy the following requirements:

(A) For beneficiaries residing in the metropolitan counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 30 minutes or 30 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(B) For beneficiaries residing in Illinois counties other than those counties listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a

beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(2) For beneficiaries residing in all Illinois counties, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive inpatient or residential treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions.

(3) If there is no in-network facility or provider

available for a beneficiary to receive timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the network adequacy standards outlined in this subsection, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall provide necessary exceptions to its network to ensure admission and treatment with a provider or at a treatment facility in accordance with the network adequacy standards in this subsection.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes or law requires more stringent standards for qualified health plans in the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, the federal standards shall control for all network plans for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market, is issued through a different type of Exchange, or is otherwise not issued through an Exchange.

(5) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes a more stringent standard in any county than specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the federal standard shall apply in lieu of the standard in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans for that plan year.

(e) Except for network plans solely offered as a group health plan, these ratio and time and distance standards apply

to the lowest cost-sharing tier of any tiered network.

(f) The network plan may consider use of other health care service delivery options, such as telemedicine or telehealth, mobile clinics, and centers of excellence, or other ways of delivering care to partially meet the requirements set under this Section.

(g) Except for the requirements set forth in subsection (d-5), issuers ~~insurers~~ who are not able to comply with the provider ratios, ~~and~~ time and distance standards, and appointment wait-time standards established under this Act or federal law ~~by the Department~~ may request an exception to these requirements from the Department. The Department may grant an exception in the following circumstances:

(1) if no providers or facilities meet the specific time and distance standard in a specific service area and the issuer ~~insurer~~ (i) discloses information on the distance and travel time points that beneficiaries would have to travel beyond the required criterion to reach the next closest contracted provider outside of the service area and (ii) provides contact information, including names, addresses, and phone numbers for the next closest contracted provider or facility;

(2) if patterns of care in the service area do not support the need for the requested number of provider or facility type and the issuer ~~insurer~~ provides data on local patterns of care, such as claims data, referral

patterns, or local provider interviews, indicating where the beneficiaries currently seek this type of care or where the physicians currently refer beneficiaries, or both; or

(3) other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Department consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(h) Issuers ~~Insurers~~ are required to report to the Director any material change to an approved network plan within 15 business days after the change occurs and any change that would result in failure to meet the requirements of this Act. The issuer shall submit a revised version of the portions of the network adequacy filing affected by the material change, as determined by the Director by rule, and the issuer shall attach versions with the changes indicated for each document that was revised from the previous version of the filing. Upon notice from the issuer ~~insurer~~, the Director shall reevaluate the network plan's compliance with the network adequacy and transparency standards of this Act. For every day past 15 business days that the issuer fails to submit a revised network adequacy filing to the Director, the Director may order a fine of $5,000 per day.

(i) If a network plan is inadequate under this Act with respect to a provider type in a county, and if the network plan does not have an approved exception for that provider type in that county pursuant to subsection (g), an issuer shall cover out-of-network claims for covered health care services

received from that provider type within that county at the in-network benefit level and shall retroactively adjudicate and reimburse beneficiaries to achieve that objective if their claims were processed at the out-of-network level contrary to this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(j) If the Director determines that a network is inadequate in any county and no exception has been granted under subsection (g) and the issuer does not have a process in place to comply with subsection (d-5), the Director may prohibit the network plan from being issued or renewed within that county until the Director determines that the network is adequate apart from processes and exceptions described in subsections (d-5) and (g). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to terminate any beneficiary's health insurance coverage under a network plan before the expiration of the beneficiary's policy period if the Director makes a determination under this subsection after the issuance or renewal of the beneficiary's policy or certificate because of a material change. Policies or certificates issued or renewed in violation of this subsection may subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per policy.

(k) For the Department to enforce any new or modified federal standard before the Department adopts the standard by rule, the Department must, no later than May 15 before the start of the plan year, give public notice to the affected

health insurance issuers through a bulletin.

(Source: P.A. 102-144, eff. 1-1-22; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-656, eff. 1-1-25.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-718)

Sec. 10. Network adequacy.

(a) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer ~~An insurer~~ providing a network plan shall file a description of all of the following with the Director:

(1) The written policies and procedures for adding providers to meet patient needs based on increases in the number of beneficiaries, changes in the patient-to-provider ratio, changes in medical and health care capabilities, and increased demand for services.

(2) The written policies and procedures for making referrals within and outside the network.

(3) The written policies and procedures on how the network plan will provide 24-hour, 7-day per week access to network-affiliated primary care, emergency services, and obstetrical and gynecological health care professionals.

An issuer ~~insurer~~ shall not prohibit a preferred provider from discussing any specific or all treatment options with beneficiaries irrespective of the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ position on those treatment options or from advocating on behalf of beneficiaries within the utilization review, grievance, or

appeals processes established by the issuer ~~insurer~~ in accordance with any rights or remedies available under applicable State or federal law.

(b) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer ~~Insurers~~ must file for review a description of the services to be offered through a network plan. The description shall include all of the following:

(1) A geographic map of the area proposed to be served by the plan by county service area and zip code, including marked locations for preferred providers.

(2) As deemed necessary by the Department, the names, addresses, phone numbers, and specialties of the providers who have entered into preferred provider agreements under the network plan.

(3) The number of beneficiaries anticipated to be covered by the network plan.

(4) An Internet website and toll-free telephone number for beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries to access current and accurate lists of preferred providers in each plan, additional information about the plan, as well as any other information required by Department rule.

(5) A description of how health care services to be rendered under the network plan are reasonably accessible and available to beneficiaries. The description shall address all of the following:

(A) the type of health care services to be

provided by the network plan;

(B) the ratio of physicians and other providers to beneficiaries, by specialty and including primary care physicians and facility-based physicians when applicable under the contract, necessary to meet the health care needs and service demands of the currently enrolled population;

(C) the travel and distance standards for plan beneficiaries in county service areas; and

(D) a description of how the use of telemedicine, telehealth, or mobile care services may be used to partially meet the network adequacy standards, if applicable.

(6) A provision ensuring that whenever a beneficiary has made a good faith effort, as evidenced by accessing the provider directory, calling the network plan, and calling the provider, to utilize preferred providers for a covered service and it is determined the issuer ~~insurer~~ does not have the appropriate preferred providers due to insufficient number, type, unreasonable travel distance or delay, or preferred providers refusing to provide a covered service because it is contrary to the conscience of the preferred providers, as protected by the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure, directly or indirectly, by terms contained in the payer contract, that the beneficiary will be provided the

covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This paragraph (6) does not apply to: (A) a beneficiary who willfully chooses to access a non-preferred provider for health care services available through the panel of preferred providers, or (B) a beneficiary enrolled in a health maintenance organization. In these circumstances, the contractual requirements for non-preferred provider reimbursements shall apply unless Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code requires otherwise. In no event shall a beneficiary who receives care at a participating health care facility be required to search for participating providers under the circumstances described in subsection (b) or (b-5) of Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code except under the circumstances described in paragraph (2) of subsection (b-5).

(7) A provision that the beneficiary shall receive emergency care coverage such that payment for this coverage is not dependent upon whether the emergency services are performed by a preferred or non-preferred provider and the coverage shall be at the same benefit level as if the service or treatment had been rendered by a preferred provider. For purposes of this paragraph (7), "the same benefit level" means that the beneficiary is provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a

preferred provider. This provision shall be consistent with Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(8) A limitation that complies with subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55 of the Prior Authorization Reform Act~~, if the plan provides that the beneficiary will incur a penalty for failing to pre certify inpatient hospital treatment, the penalty may not exceed $1,000 per occurrence in addition to the plan cost sharing provisions~~.

(9) For a network plan to be offered through the Exchange in the individual or small group market, as well as any off-Exchange mirror of such a network plan, evidence that the network plan includes essential community providers in accordance with rules established by the Exchange that will operate in this State for the applicable plan year.

(c) The issuer ~~network plan~~ shall demonstrate to the Director a minimum ratio of providers to plan beneficiaries as required by the Department for each network plan.

(1) The minimum ratio of physicians or other providers to plan beneficiaries shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Department shall not establish ratios for vision or dental providers who provide services under dental-specific or vision-specific

benefits, except to the extent provided under federal law for stand-alone dental plans. The Department shall consider establishing ratios for the following physicians or other providers:

(A) Primary Care;

(B) Pediatrics;

(C) Cardiology;

(D) Gastroenterology;

(E) General Surgery;

(F) Neurology;

(G) OB/GYN;

(H) Oncology/Radiation;

(I) Ophthalmology;

(J) Urology;

(K) Behavioral Health;

(L) Allergy/Immunology;

(M) Chiropractic;

(N) Dermatology;

(O) Endocrinology;

(P) Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT)/Otolaryngology;

(Q) Infectious Disease;

(R) Nephrology;

(S) Neurosurgery;

(T) Orthopedic Surgery;

(U) Physiatry/Rehabilitative;

(V) Plastic Surgery;

(W) Pulmonary;

(X) Rheumatology;

(Y) Anesthesiology;

(Z) Pain Medicine;

(AA) Pediatric Specialty Services;

(BB) Outpatient Dialysis; and

(CC) HIV.

(1.5) Beginning January 1, 2026, every issuer shall demonstrate to the Director that each in-network hospital has at least one radiologist, pathologist, anesthesiologist, and emergency room physician as a preferred provider in a network plan. The Department may, by rule, require additional types of hospital-based medical specialists to be included as preferred providers in each in-network hospital in a network plan.

(2) The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards, along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (c).

(3) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the minimum ratio for each provider type shall be no less than any such ratio established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal

standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes minimum provider ratios for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d) The network plan shall demonstrate to the Director maximum travel and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards for plan beneficiaries, which shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These standards shall consist of the maximum minutes or miles to be traveled by a plan beneficiary for each county type, such as large counties, metro counties, or rural counties as defined by Department rule.

The maximum travel time and distance standards must

include standards for each physician and other provider category listed for which ratios have been established.

The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (d).

Notwithstanding any other law or Department rule, the maximum travel time and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards shall be no greater than any such standards established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

If the federal area designations for the maximum time or distance or appointment wait-time standards required are changed by the most recent Letter to Issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces, the Department shall post

on its website notice of such changes and may amend its rules to conform to those designations if the Director deems appropriate.

If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes appointment wait-time standards for qualified health plans, including stand-alone dental plans, in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for the same types of qualified health plans for that plan year. If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes time and distance standards for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d-5)(1) Every issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure that beneficiaries have timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 370c of the Illinois Insurance Code. Issuers ~~Insurers~~ shall use a comparable process, strategy, evidentiary standard, and other factors in the development and application of the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and those for the access to treatment for medical and surgical conditions. As such, the network adequacy standards for timely

and proximate access shall equally be applied to treatment facilities and providers for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and specialists providing medical or surgical benefits pursuant to the parity requirements of Section 370c.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code and the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall, at a minimum, satisfy the following requirements:

(A) For beneficiaries residing in the metropolitan counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 30 minutes or 30 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of

mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(B) For beneficiaries residing in Illinois counties other than those counties listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the

beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(2) For beneficiaries residing in all Illinois counties, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive inpatient or residential treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions.

(3) If there is no in-network facility or provider available for a beneficiary to receive timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the network adequacy standards outlined in this subsection, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall provide necessary exceptions to its network to ensure admission and treatment with a provider or at a treatment facility in accordance with the network adequacy standards in this subsection.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes or law requires more stringent standards for qualified health plans in the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, the federal standards shall control for all network plans for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market, is issued through a different type of

Exchange, or is otherwise not issued through an Exchange.

(5) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes a more stringent standard in any county than specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the federal standard shall apply in lieu of the standard in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans for that plan year.

(e) Except for network plans solely offered as a group health plan, these ratio and time and distance standards apply to the lowest cost-sharing tier of any tiered network.

(f) The network plan may consider use of other health care service delivery options, such as telemedicine or telehealth, mobile clinics, and centers of excellence, or other ways of delivering care to partially meet the requirements set under this Section.

(g) Except for the requirements set forth in subsection (d-5), issuers ~~insurers~~ who are not able to comply with the provider ratios, ~~and~~ time and distance standards, and appointment wait-time standards established under this Act or federal law ~~by the Department~~ may request an exception to these requirements from the Department. The Department may grant an exception in the following circumstances:

(1) if no providers or facilities meet the specific time and distance standard in a specific service area and

the issuer ~~insurer~~ (i) discloses information on the distance and travel time points that beneficiaries would have to travel beyond the required criterion to reach the next closest contracted provider outside of the service area and (ii) provides contact information, including names, addresses, and phone numbers for the next closest contracted provider or facility;

(2) if patterns of care in the service area do not support the need for the requested number of provider or facility type and the issuer ~~insurer~~ provides data on local patterns of care, such as claims data, referral patterns, or local provider interviews, indicating where the beneficiaries currently seek this type of care or where the physicians currently refer beneficiaries, or both; or

(3) other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Department consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(h) Issuers ~~Insurers~~ are required to report to the Director any material change to an approved network plan within 15 business days after the change occurs and any change that would result in failure to meet the requirements of this Act. The issuer shall submit a revised version of the portions of the network adequacy filing affected by the material change, as determined by the Director by rule, and the issuer shall attach versions with the changes indicated for each document that was revised from the previous version of the

filing. Upon notice from the issuer ~~insurer~~, the Director shall reevaluate the network plan's compliance with the network adequacy and transparency standards of this Act. For every day past 15 business days that the issuer fails to submit a revised network adequacy filing to the Director, the Director may order a fine of $5,000 per day.

(i) If a network plan is inadequate under this Act with respect to a provider type in a county, and if the network plan does not have an approved exception for that provider type in that county pursuant to subsection (g), an issuer shall cover out-of-network claims for covered health care services received from that provider type within that county at the in-network benefit level and shall retroactively adjudicate and reimburse beneficiaries to achieve that objective if their claims were processed at the out-of-network level contrary to this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(j) If the Director determines that a network is inadequate in any county and no exception has been granted under subsection (g) and the issuer does not have a process in place to comply with subsection (d-5), the Director may prohibit the network plan from being issued or renewed within that county until the Director determines that the network is adequate apart from processes and exceptions described in subsections (d-5) and (g). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to terminate any beneficiary's health insurance

coverage under a network plan before the expiration of the beneficiary's policy period if the Director makes a determination under this subsection after the issuance or renewal of the beneficiary's policy or certificate because of a material change. Policies or certificates issued or renewed in violation of this subsection may subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per policy.

(k) For the Department to enforce any new or modified federal standard before the Department adopts the standard by rule, the Department must, no later than May 15 before the start of the plan year, give public notice to the affected health insurance issuers through a bulletin.

(Source: P.A. 102-144, eff. 1-1-22; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-718, eff. 7-19-24.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-777)

Sec. 10. Network adequacy.

(a) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer ~~An insurer~~ providing a network plan shall file a description of all of the following with the Director:

(1) The written policies and procedures for adding providers to meet patient needs based on increases in the number of beneficiaries, changes in the patient-to-provider ratio, changes in medical and health care capabilities, and increased demand for services.

(2) The written policies and procedures for making

referrals within and outside the network.

(3) The written policies and procedures on how the network plan will provide 24-hour, 7-day per week access to network-affiliated primary care, emergency services, and obstetrical and gynecological health care professionals ~~women's principal health care providers~~.

An issuer ~~insurer~~ shall not prohibit a preferred provider from discussing any specific or all treatment options with beneficiaries irrespective of the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ position on those treatment options or from advocating on behalf of beneficiaries within the utilization review, grievance, or appeals processes established by the issuer ~~insurer~~ in accordance with any rights or remedies available under applicable State or federal law.

(b) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer ~~Insurers~~ must file for review a description of the services to be offered through a network plan. The description shall include all of the following:

(1) A geographic map of the area proposed to be served by the plan by county service area and zip code, including marked locations for preferred providers.

(2) As deemed necessary by the Department, the names, addresses, phone numbers, and specialties of the providers who have entered into preferred provider agreements under the network plan.

(3) The number of beneficiaries anticipated to be

covered by the network plan.

(4) An Internet website and toll-free telephone number for beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries to access current and accurate lists of preferred providers in each plan, additional information about the plan, as well as any other information required by Department rule.

(5) A description of how health care services to be rendered under the network plan are reasonably accessible and available to beneficiaries. The description shall address all of the following:

(A) the type of health care services to be provided by the network plan;

(B) the ratio of physicians and other providers to beneficiaries, by specialty and including primary care physicians and facility-based physicians when applicable under the contract, necessary to meet the health care needs and service demands of the currently enrolled population;

(C) the travel and distance standards for plan beneficiaries in county service areas; and

(D) a description of how the use of telemedicine, telehealth, or mobile care services may be used to partially meet the network adequacy standards, if applicable.

(6) A provision ensuring that whenever a beneficiary has made a good faith effort, as evidenced by accessing

the provider directory, calling the network plan, and calling the provider, to utilize preferred providers for a covered service and it is determined the issuer ~~insurer~~ does not have the appropriate preferred providers due to insufficient number, type, unreasonable travel distance or delay, or preferred providers refusing to provide a covered service because it is contrary to the conscience of the preferred providers, as protected by the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure, directly or indirectly, by terms contained in the payer contract, that the beneficiary will be provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This paragraph (6) does not apply to: (A) a beneficiary who willfully chooses to access a non-preferred provider for health care services available through the panel of preferred providers, or (B) a beneficiary enrolled in a health maintenance organization. In these circumstances, the contractual requirements for non-preferred provider reimbursements shall apply unless Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code requires otherwise. In no event shall a beneficiary who receives care at a participating health care facility be required to search for participating providers under the circumstances described in subsection (b) or (b-5) of Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code except under the circumstances

described in paragraph (2) of subsection (b-5).

(7) A provision that the beneficiary shall receive emergency care coverage such that payment for this coverage is not dependent upon whether the emergency services are performed by a preferred or non-preferred provider and the coverage shall be at the same benefit level as if the service or treatment had been rendered by a preferred provider. For purposes of this paragraph (7), "the same benefit level" means that the beneficiary is provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This provision shall be consistent with Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(8) A limitation that complies with subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55 of the Prior Authorization Reform Act~~, if the plan provides that the beneficiary will incur a penalty for failing to pre certify inpatient hospital treatment, the penalty may not exceed $1,000 per occurrence in addition to the plan cost sharing provisions~~.

(9) For a network plan to be offered through the Exchange in the individual or small group market, as well as any off-Exchange mirror of such a network plan, evidence that the network plan includes essential community providers in accordance with rules established by the Exchange that will operate in this State for the

applicable plan year.

(c) The issuer ~~network plan~~ shall demonstrate to the Director a minimum ratio of providers to plan beneficiaries as required by the Department for each network plan.

(1) The minimum ratio of physicians or other providers to plan beneficiaries shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Department shall not establish ratios for vision or dental providers who provide services under dental-specific or vision-specific benefits, except to the extent provided under federal law for stand-alone dental plans. The Department shall consider establishing ratios for the following physicians or other providers:

(A) Primary Care;

(B) Pediatrics;

(C) Cardiology;

(D) Gastroenterology;

(E) General Surgery;

(F) Neurology;

(G) OB/GYN;

(H) Oncology/Radiation;

(I) Ophthalmology;

(J) Urology;

(K) Behavioral Health;

(L) Allergy/Immunology;

(M) Chiropractic;

(N) Dermatology;

(O) Endocrinology;

(P) Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT)/Otolaryngology;

(Q) Infectious Disease;

(R) Nephrology;

(S) Neurosurgery;

(T) Orthopedic Surgery;

(U) Physiatry/Rehabilitative;

(V) Plastic Surgery;

(W) Pulmonary;

(X) Rheumatology;

(Y) Anesthesiology;

(Z) Pain Medicine;

(AA) Pediatric Specialty Services;

(BB) Outpatient Dialysis; and

(CC) HIV.

(1.5) Beginning January 1, 2026, every issuer shall demonstrate to the Director that each in-network hospital has at least one radiologist, pathologist, anesthesiologist, and emergency room physician as a preferred provider in a network plan. The Department may, by rule, require additional types of hospital-based medical specialists to be included as preferred providers in each in-network hospital in a network plan.

(2) The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards, along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (c).

(3) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the minimum ratio for each provider type shall be no less than any such ratio established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

(4) ~~(3)~~ If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes minimum provider ratios for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d) The network plan shall demonstrate to the Director maximum travel and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards for plan beneficiaries, which shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These standards shall consist of the maximum minutes or miles to be traveled by a plan beneficiary for each county type, such as large counties, metro counties, or rural counties as defined by Department rule.

The maximum travel time and distance standards must include standards for each physician and other provider category listed for which ratios have been established.

The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (d).

Notwithstanding any other law or Department rule, the maximum travel time and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards shall be no greater than any such standards established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network

plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

If the federal area designations for the maximum time or distance or appointment wait-time standards required are changed by the most recent Letter to Issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces, the Department shall post on its website notice of such changes and may amend its rules to conform to those designations if the Director deems appropriate.

If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes appointment wait-time standards for qualified health plans, including stand-alone dental plans, in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for the same types of qualified health plans for that plan year. If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes time and distance standards for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d-5)(1) Every issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure that

beneficiaries have timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 370c of the Illinois Insurance Code. Issuers ~~Insurers~~ shall use a comparable process, strategy, evidentiary standard, and other factors in the development and application of the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and those for the access to treatment for medical and surgical conditions. As such, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access shall equally be applied to treatment facilities and providers for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and specialists providing medical or surgical benefits pursuant to the parity requirements of Section 370c.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code and the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall, at a minimum, satisfy the following requirements:

(A) For beneficiaries residing in the metropolitan counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance

use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 30 minutes or 30 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(B) For beneficiaries residing in Illinois counties other than those counties listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions.

Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(2) For beneficiaries residing in all Illinois counties, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive inpatient or residential treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions.

(3) If there is no in-network facility or provider available for a beneficiary to receive timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the network adequacy standards outlined in this subsection, the

issuer ~~insurer~~ shall provide necessary exceptions to its network to ensure admission and treatment with a provider or at a treatment facility in accordance with the network adequacy standards in this subsection.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes or law requires more stringent standards for qualified health plans in the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, the federal standards shall control for all network plans for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market, is issued through a different type of Exchange, or is otherwise not issued through an Exchange.

(5) ~~(4)~~ If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes a more stringent standard in any county than specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the federal standard shall apply in lieu of the standard in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans for that plan year.

(e) Except for network plans solely offered as a group health plan, these ratio and time and distance standards apply to the lowest cost-sharing tier of any tiered network.

(f) The network plan may consider use of other health care service delivery options, such as telemedicine or telehealth, mobile clinics, and centers of excellence, or other ways of

delivering care to partially meet the requirements set under this Section.

(g) Except for the requirements set forth in subsection (d-5), issuers ~~insurers~~ who are not able to comply with the provider ratios, time and distance standards, and appointment wait-time standards established under this Act or federal law may request an exception to these requirements from the Department. The Department may grant an exception in the following circumstances:

(1) if no providers or facilities meet the specific time and distance standard in a specific service area and the issuer ~~insurer~~ (i) discloses information on the distance and travel time points that beneficiaries would have to travel beyond the required criterion to reach the next closest contracted provider outside of the service area and (ii) provides contact information, including names, addresses, and phone numbers for the next closest contracted provider or facility;

(2) if patterns of care in the service area do not support the need for the requested number of provider or facility type and the issuer ~~insurer~~ provides data on local patterns of care, such as claims data, referral patterns, or local provider interviews, indicating where the beneficiaries currently seek this type of care or where the physicians currently refer beneficiaries, or both; or

(3) other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Department consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(h) Issuers ~~Insurers~~ are required to report to the Director any material change to an approved network plan within 15 business days after the change occurs and any change that would result in failure to meet the requirements of this Act. The issuer shall submit a revised version of the portions of the network adequacy filing affected by the material change, as determined by the Director by rule, and the issuer shall attach versions with the changes indicated for each document that was revised from the previous version of the filing. Upon notice from the issuer ~~insurer~~, the Director shall reevaluate the network plan's compliance with the network adequacy and transparency standards of this Act. For every day past 15 business days that the issuer fails to submit a revised network adequacy filing to the Director, the Director may order a fine of $5,000 per day.

(i) If a network plan is inadequate under this Act with respect to a provider type in a county, and if the network plan does not have an approved exception for that provider type in that county pursuant to subsection (g), an issuer shall cover out-of-network claims for covered health care services received from that provider type within that county at the in-network benefit level and shall retroactively adjudicate and reimburse beneficiaries to achieve that objective if their claims were processed at the out-of-network level contrary to

this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(j) If the Director determines that a network is inadequate in any county and no exception has been granted under subsection (g) and the issuer does not have a process in place to comply with subsection (d-5), the Director may prohibit the network plan from being issued or renewed within that county until the Director determines that the network is adequate apart from processes and exceptions described in subsections (d-5) and (g). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to terminate any beneficiary's health insurance coverage under a network plan before the expiration of the beneficiary's policy period if the Director makes a determination under this subsection after the issuance or renewal of the beneficiary's policy or certificate because of a material change. Policies or certificates issued or renewed in violation of this subsection may subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per policy.

(k) For the Department to enforce any new or modified federal standard before the Department adopts the standard by rule, the Department must, no later than May 15 before the start of the plan year, give public notice to the affected health insurance issuers through a bulletin.

(Source: P.A. 102-144, eff. 1-1-22; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-777, eff. 1-1-25.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-906)

Sec. 10. Network adequacy.

(a) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network plan, an issuer ~~An insurer~~ providing a network plan shall file a description of all of the following with the Director:

(1) The written policies and procedures for adding providers to meet patient needs based on increases in the number of beneficiaries, changes in the patient-to-provider ratio, changes in medical and health care capabilities, and increased demand for services.

(2) The written policies and procedures for making referrals within and outside the network.

(3) The written policies and procedures on how the network plan will provide 24-hour, 7-day per week access to network-affiliated primary care, emergency services, and obstetrical and gynecological health care professionals ~~women's principal health care providers~~.

An issuer ~~insurer~~ shall not prohibit a preferred provider from discussing any specific or all treatment options with beneficiaries irrespective of the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ position on those treatment options or from advocating on behalf of beneficiaries within the utilization review, grievance, or appeals processes established by the issuer ~~insurer~~ in accordance with any rights or remedies available under applicable State or federal law.

(b) Before issuing, delivering, or renewing a network

plan, an issuer ~~Insurers~~ must file for review a description of the services to be offered through a network plan. The description shall include all of the following:

(1) A geographic map of the area proposed to be served by the plan by county service area and zip code, including marked locations for preferred providers.

(2) As deemed necessary by the Department, the names, addresses, phone numbers, and specialties of the providers who have entered into preferred provider agreements under the network plan.

(3) The number of beneficiaries anticipated to be covered by the network plan.

(4) An Internet website and toll-free telephone number for beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries to access current and accurate lists of preferred providers in each plan, additional information about the plan, as well as any other information required by Department rule.

(5) A description of how health care services to be rendered under the network plan are reasonably accessible and available to beneficiaries. The description shall address all of the following:

(A) the type of health care services to be provided by the network plan;

(B) the ratio of physicians and other providers to beneficiaries, by specialty and including primary care physicians and facility-based physicians when

applicable under the contract, necessary to meet the health care needs and service demands of the currently enrolled population;

(C) the travel and distance standards for plan beneficiaries in county service areas; and

(D) a description of how the use of telemedicine, telehealth, or mobile care services may be used to partially meet the network adequacy standards, if applicable.

(6) A provision ensuring that whenever a beneficiary has made a good faith effort, as evidenced by accessing the provider directory, calling the network plan, and calling the provider, to utilize preferred providers for a covered service and it is determined the issuer ~~insurer~~ does not have the appropriate preferred providers due to insufficient number, type, unreasonable travel distance or delay, or preferred providers refusing to provide a covered service because it is contrary to the conscience of the preferred providers, as protected by the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure, directly or indirectly, by terms contained in the payer contract, that the beneficiary will be provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This paragraph (6) does not apply to: (A) a beneficiary who willfully chooses to access a non-preferred provider

for health care services available through the panel of preferred providers, or (B) a beneficiary enrolled in a health maintenance organization. In these circumstances, the contractual requirements for non-preferred provider reimbursements shall apply unless Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code requires otherwise. In no event shall a beneficiary who receives care at a participating health care facility be required to search for participating providers under the circumstances described in subsection (b) or (b-5) of Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code except under the circumstances described in paragraph (2) of subsection (b-5).

(7) A provision that the beneficiary shall receive emergency care coverage such that payment for this coverage is not dependent upon whether the emergency services are performed by a preferred or non-preferred provider and the coverage shall be at the same benefit level as if the service or treatment had been rendered by a preferred provider. For purposes of this paragraph (7), "the same benefit level" means that the beneficiary is provided the covered service at no greater cost to the beneficiary than if the service had been provided by a preferred provider. This provision shall be consistent with Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(8) A limitation that <u>complies with subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55 of the Prior Authorization Reform</u>

Act~~, if the plan provides that the beneficiary will incur a penalty for failing to pre-certify inpatient hospital treatment, the penalty may not exceed $1,000 per occurrence in addition to the plan cost sharing provisions~~.

(9) For a network plan to be offered through the Exchange in the individual or small group market, as well as any off-Exchange mirror of such a network plan, evidence that the network plan includes essential community providers in accordance with rules established by the Exchange that will operate in this State for the applicable plan year.

(c) The issuer ~~network plan~~ shall demonstrate to the Director a minimum ratio of providers to plan beneficiaries as required by the Department for each network plan.

(1) The minimum ratio of physicians or other providers to plan beneficiaries shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Department shall not establish ratios for vision or dental providers who provide services under dental-specific or vision-specific benefits, except to the extent provided under federal law for stand-alone dental plans. The Department shall consider establishing ratios for the following physicians or other providers:

(A) Primary Care;

(B) Pediatrics;

(C) Cardiology;

(D) Gastroenterology;

(E) General Surgery;

(F) Neurology;

(G) OB/GYN;

(H) Oncology/Radiation;

(I) Ophthalmology;

(J) Urology;

(K) Behavioral Health;

(L) Allergy/Immunology;

(M) Chiropractic;

(N) Dermatology;

(O) Endocrinology;

(P) Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT)/Otolaryngology;

(Q) Infectious Disease;

(R) Nephrology;

(S) Neurosurgery;

(T) Orthopedic Surgery;

(U) Physiatry/Rehabilitative;

(V) Plastic Surgery;

(W) Pulmonary;

(X) Rheumatology;

(Y) Anesthesiology;

(Z) Pain Medicine;

(AA) Pediatric Specialty Services;

(BB) Outpatient Dialysis; and

(CC) HIV.

(1.5) Beginning January 1, 2026, every issuer ~~insurer~~ shall demonstrate to the Director that each in-network hospital has at least one radiologist, pathologist, anesthesiologist, and emergency room physician as a preferred provider in a network plan. The Department may, by rule, require additional types of hospital-based medical specialists to be included as preferred providers in each in-network hospital in a network plan.

(2) The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards, along with an assessment of additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (c).

(3) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the minimum ratio for each provider type shall be no less than any such ratio established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or

guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes minimum provider ratios for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d) The network plan shall demonstrate to the Director maximum travel and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards for plan beneficiaries, which shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Department in consultation with the Department of Public Health based upon the guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These standards shall consist of the maximum minutes or miles to be traveled by a plan beneficiary for each county type, such as large counties, metro counties, or rural counties as defined by Department rule.

The maximum travel time and distance standards must include standards for each physician and other provider category listed for which ratios have been established.

The Director shall establish a process for the review of the adequacy of these standards along with an assessment of

additional specialties to be included in the list under this subsection (d).

Notwithstanding any other law or Department rule, the maximum travel time and distance standards and appointment wait-time standards shall be no greater than any such standards established for qualified health plans in Federally-Facilitated Exchanges by federal law or by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market or is otherwise not issued through an exchange. Federal standards for stand-alone dental plans shall only apply to such network plans. In the absence of an applicable Department rule, the federal standards shall apply for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establish standards that are more stringent than the standards in effect under any Department rule, the Department may amend its rules to conform to the more stringent federal standards.

If the federal area designations for the maximum time or distance or appointment wait-time standards required are changed by the most recent Letter to Issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces, the Department shall post on its website notice of such changes and may amend its rules to conform to those designations if the Director deems appropriate.

If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

establishes appointment wait-time standards for qualified health plans, including stand-alone dental plans, in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for the same types of qualified health plans for that plan year. If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes time and distance standards for stand-alone dental plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the Department shall enforce those standards for stand-alone dental plans for that plan year.

(d-5)(1) Every issuer ~~insurer~~ shall ensure that beneficiaries have timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 370c of the Illinois Insurance Code. Issuers ~~Insurers~~ shall use a comparable process, strategy, evidentiary standard, and other factors in the development and application of the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and those for the access to treatment for medical and surgical conditions. As such, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access shall equally be applied to treatment facilities and providers for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions and specialists providing medical or surgical benefits pursuant to the parity

requirements of Section 370c.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code and the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions shall, at a minimum, satisfy the following requirements:

(A) For beneficiaries residing in the metropolitan counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 30 minutes or 30 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the

beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(B) For beneficiaries residing in Illinois counties other than those counties listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive outpatient treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions. Beneficiaries shall not be required to wait longer than 10 business days between requesting an initial appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment or to wait longer than 20 business days between requesting a repeat or follow-up appointment and being seen by the facility or provider of mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions for outpatient treatment; however, subject to the protections of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a network plan shall not be held responsible if the beneficiary or provider voluntarily chooses to schedule an appointment outside of these required time frames.

(2) For beneficiaries residing in all Illinois counties, network adequacy standards for timely and proximate access to

treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions means a beneficiary shall not have to travel longer than 60 minutes or 60 miles from the beneficiary's residence to receive inpatient or residential treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions.

(3) If there is no in-network facility or provider available for a beneficiary to receive timely and proximate access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous, or substance use disorders or conditions in accordance with the network adequacy standards outlined in this subsection, the issuer ~~insurer~~ shall provide necessary exceptions to its network to ensure admission and treatment with a provider or at a treatment facility in accordance with the network adequacy standards in this subsection.

(4) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes or law requires more stringent standards for qualified health plans in the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, the federal standards shall control for all network plans for the time period specified in the federal law, regulation, or guidance, even if the network plan is issued in the large group market, is issued through a different type of Exchange, or is otherwise not issued through an Exchange.

(5) If the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services establishes a more stringent standard in any county than specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection

(d-5) for qualified health plans in the type of exchange in use in this State for a given plan year, the federal standard shall apply in lieu of the standard in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection (d-5) for qualified health plans for that plan year.

(e) Except for network plans solely offered as a group health plan, these ratio and time and distance standards apply to the lowest cost-sharing tier of any tiered network.

(f) The network plan may consider use of other health care service delivery options, such as telemedicine or telehealth, mobile clinics, and centers of excellence, or other ways of delivering care to partially meet the requirements set under this Section.

(g) Except for the requirements set forth in subsection (d-5), issuers ~~insurers~~ who are not able to comply with the provider ratios, ~~and~~ time and distance standards, and appointment wait-time standards established under this Act or federal law ~~by the Department~~ may request an exception to these requirements from the Department. The Department may grant an exception in the following circumstances:

(1) if no providers or facilities meet the specific time and distance standard in a specific service area and the issuer ~~insurer~~ (i) discloses information on the distance and travel time points that beneficiaries would have to travel beyond the required criterion to reach the next closest contracted provider outside of the service

area and (ii) provides contact information, including names, addresses, and phone numbers for the next closest contracted provider or facility;

(2) if patterns of care in the service area do not support the need for the requested number of provider or facility type and the issuer ~~insurer~~ provides data on local patterns of care, such as claims data, referral patterns, or local provider interviews, indicating where the beneficiaries currently seek this type of care or where the physicians currently refer beneficiaries, or both; or

(3) other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Department consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(h) Issuers ~~Insurers~~ are required to report to the Director any material change to an approved network plan within 15 business days after the change occurs and any change that would result in failure to meet the requirements of this Act. The issuer shall submit a revised version of the portions of the network adequacy filing affected by the material change, as determined by the Director by rule, and the issuer shall attach versions with the changes indicated for each document that was revised from the previous version of the filing. Upon notice from the issuer ~~insurer~~, the Director shall reevaluate the network plan's compliance with the network adequacy and transparency standards of this Act. For every day past 15 business days that the issuer fails to submit

a revised network adequacy filing to the Director, the Director may order a fine of $5,000 per day.

(i) If a network plan is inadequate under this Act with respect to a provider type in a county, and if the network plan does not have an approved exception for that provider type in that county pursuant to subsection (g), an issuer shall cover out-of-network claims for covered health care services received from that provider type within that county at the in-network benefit level and shall retroactively adjudicate and reimburse beneficiaries to achieve that objective if their claims were processed at the out-of-network level contrary to this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede Section 356z.3a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(j) If the Director determines that a network is inadequate in any county and no exception has been granted under subsection (g) and the issuer does not have a process in place to comply with subsection (d-5), the Director may prohibit the network plan from being issued or renewed within that county until the Director determines that the network is adequate apart from processes and exceptions described in subsections (d-5) and (g). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to terminate any beneficiary's health insurance coverage under a network plan before the expiration of the beneficiary's policy period if the Director makes a determination under this subsection after the issuance or renewal of the beneficiary's policy or certificate because of

a material change. Policies or certificates issued or renewed in violation of this subsection may subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per policy.

(k) For the Department to enforce any new or modified federal standard before the Department adopts the standard by rule, the Department must, no later than May 15 before the start of the plan year, give public notice to the affected health insurance issuers through a bulletin.

(Source: P.A. 102-144, eff. 1-1-22; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-906, eff. 1-1-25.)

(215 ILCS 124/25)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-605)

Sec. 25. Network transparency.

(a) A network plan shall post electronically an up-to-date, accurate, and complete provider directory for each of its network plans, with the information and search functions, as described in this Section.

(1) In making the directory available electronically, the network plans shall ensure that the general public is able to view all of the current providers for a plan through a clearly identifiable link or tab and without creating or accessing an account or entering a policy or contract number.

(2) An issuer's failure to update a network plan's directory shall subject the issuer to a civil penalty of

$5,000 per month. ~~The network plan shall update the online provider directory at least monthly.~~ Providers shall notify the network plan electronically or in writing within 10 business days of any changes to their information as listed in the provider directory, including the information required in subsections (b), (c), and (d) ~~subparagraph (K) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b)~~. With regard to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b), the provider must give notice to the issuer within 20 business days of deciding to cease accepting new patients covered by the plan if the new patient limitation is expected to last 40 business days or longer. The network plan shall update its online provider directory in a manner consistent with the information provided by the provider within 2 ~~10~~ business days after being notified of the change by the provider. Nothing in this paragraph (2) shall void any contractual relationship between the provider and the plan.

(3) At least once every 90 days, the issuer shall self-audit each network plan's ~~The network plan shall audit periodically at least 25% of its~~ provider directories for accuracy, make any corrections necessary, and retain documentation of the audit. The issuer shall submit the self-audit and a summary to the Department, and the Department shall make the summary of each self-audit publicly available. The Department shall specify the

requirements of the summary, which shall be statistical in nature except for a high-level narrative evaluating the impact of internal and external factors on the accuracy of the directory and the timeliness of updates. ~~The network plan shall submit the audit to the Director upon request.~~ As part of these self-audits ~~audits~~, the network plan shall contact any provider in its network that has not submitted a claim to the plan or otherwise communicated his or her intent to continue participation in the plan's network. The self-audits shall comply with 42 U.S.C. 300gg-115(a)(2), except that "provider directory information" shall include all information required to be included in a provider directory pursuant to this Act.

(4) A network plan shall provide a printed copy of a current provider directory or a printed copy of the requested directory information upon request of a beneficiary or a prospective beneficiary. Except when an issuer's printed copies use the same provider information as the electronic provider directory on each printed copy's date of printing, printed ~~Printed~~ copies must be updated at least every 90 days ~~quarterly~~ and ~~an~~ errata that reflects changes in the provider network must be included in each update ~~updated quarterly~~.

(5) For each network plan, a network plan shall include, in plain language in both the electronic and print directory, the following general information:

(A) in plain language, a description of the criteria the plan has used to build its provider network;

(B) if applicable, in plain language, a description of the criteria the issuer ~~insurer~~ or network plan has used to create tiered networks;

(C) if applicable, in plain language, how the network plan designates the different provider tiers or levels in the network and identifies for each specific provider, hospital, or other type of facility in the network which tier each is placed, for example, by name, symbols, or grouping, in order for a beneficiary-covered person or a prospective beneficiary-covered person to be able to identify the provider tier; ~~and~~

(D) if applicable, a notation that authorization or referral may be required to access some providers; ~~.~~

(E) a telephone number and email address for a customer service representative to whom directory inaccuracies may be reported; and

(F) a detailed description of the process to dispute charges for out-of-network providers, hospitals, or facilities that were incorrectly listed as in-network prior to the provision of care and a telephone number and email address to dispute such charges.

(6) A network plan shall make it clear for both its electronic and print directories what provider directory applies to which network plan, such as including the specific name of the network plan as marketed and issued in this State. The network plan shall include in both its electronic and print directories a customer service email address and telephone number or electronic link that beneficiaries or the general public may use to notify the network plan of inaccurate provider directory information and contact information for the Department's Office of Consumer Health Insurance.

(7) A provider directory, whether in electronic or print format, shall accommodate the communication needs of individuals with disabilities, and include a link to or information regarding available assistance for persons with limited English proficiency.

(b) For each network plan, a network plan shall make available through an electronic provider directory the following information in a searchable format:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) name;

(B) gender;

(C) participating office locations;

(D) <u>patient population served (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) and</u> specialty <u>or subspecialty</u>, if applicable;

(E) medical group affiliations, if applicable;

(F) facility affiliations, if applicable;

(G) participating facility affiliations, if applicable;

(H) languages spoken other than English, if applicable;

(I) whether accepting new patients;

(J) board certifications, if applicable; ~~and~~

(K) use of telehealth or telemedicine, including, but not limited to:

(i) whether the provider offers the use of telehealth or telemedicine to deliver services to patients for whom it would be clinically appropriate;

(ii) what modalities are used and what types of services may be provided via telehealth or telemedicine; and

(iii) whether the provider has the ability and willingness to include in a telehealth or telemedicine encounter a family caregiver who is in a separate location than the patient if the patient wishes and provides his or her consent;

(L) whether the health care professional accepts appointment requests from patients; and

(M) the anticipated date the provider will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be

included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms that the provider is scheduled to leave the network;

(2) for hospitals:

(A) hospital name;

(B) hospital type (such as acute, rehabilitation, children's, or cancer);

(C) participating hospital location; ~~and~~

(D) hospital accreditation status; and

(E) the anticipated date the hospital will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms the hospital is scheduled to leave the network; and

(3) for facilities, other than hospitals, by type:

(A) facility name;

(B) facility type;

(C) types of services performed; ~~and~~

(D) participating facility location or locations; and~~.~~

(E) the anticipated date the facility will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms the facility is scheduled to leave the network.

(c) For the electronic provider directories, for each network plan, a network plan shall make available all of the following information in addition to the searchable

information required in this Section:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) contact information, including both a telephone number and digital contact information if the provider has supplied digital contact information; and

(B) languages spoken other than English by clinical staff, if applicable;

(2) for hospitals, telephone number and digital contact information; and

(3) for facilities other than hospitals, telephone number.

(d) The issuer ~~insurer~~ or network plan shall make available in print, upon request, the following provider directory information for the applicable network plan:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) name;

(B) contact information, including a telephone number and digital contact information if the provider has supplied digital contact information;

(C) participating office location or locations;

(D) patient population (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) and specialty or subspecialty, if applicable;

(E) languages spoken other than English, if applicable;

(F) whether accepting new patients; ~~and~~

(G) use of telehealth or telemedicine, including, but not limited to:

(i) whether the provider offers the use of telehealth or telemedicine to deliver services to patients for whom it would be clinically appropriate;

(ii) what modalities are used and what types of services may be provided via telehealth or telemedicine; and

(iii) whether the provider has the ability and willingness to include in a telehealth or telemedicine encounter a family caregiver who is in a separate location than the patient if the patient wishes and provides his or her consent; and

(H) whether the health care professional accepts appointment requests from patients;

(2) for hospitals:

(A) hospital name;

(B) hospital type (such as acute, rehabilitation, children's, or cancer); and

(C) participating hospital location, ~~and~~ telephone number , and digital contact information; and

(3) for facilities, other than hospitals, by type:

(A) facility name;

(B) facility type;

(C) patient population (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) served, if applicable, and types of services performed; and

(D) participating facility location or locations, ~~and~~ telephone numbers, and digital contact information for each location.

(e) The network plan shall include a disclosure in the print format provider directory that the information included in the directory is accurate as of the date of printing and that beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries should consult the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ electronic provider directory on its website and contact the provider. The network plan shall also include a telephone number and email address in the print format provider directory for a customer service representative where the beneficiary can obtain current provider directory information or report provider directory inaccuracies. The printed provider directory shall include a detailed description of the process to dispute charges for out-of-network providers, hospitals, or facilities that were incorrectly listed as in-network prior to the provision of care and a telephone number and email address to dispute those charges.

(f) The Director may conduct periodic audits of the accuracy of provider directories. A network plan shall not be subject to any fines or penalties for information required in

this Section that a provider submits that is inaccurate or incomplete.

(g) To the extent not otherwise provided in this Act, an issuer shall comply with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 300gg-115, except that "provider directory information" shall include all information required to be included in a provider directory pursuant to this Section.

(h) If the issuer or the Department identifies a provider incorrectly listed in the provider directory, the issuer shall check each of the issuer's network plan provider directories for the provider within 2 business days to ascertain whether the provider is a preferred provider in that network plan and, if the provider is incorrectly listed in the provider directory, remove the provider from the provider directory without delay.

(i) If the Director determines that an issuer violated this Section, the Director may assess a fine up to $5,000 per violation, except for inaccurate information given by a provider to the issuer. If an issuer, or any entity or person acting on the issuer's behalf, knew or reasonably should have known that a provider was incorrectly included in a provider directory, the Director may assess a fine of up to $25,000 per violation against the issuer.

(j) This Section applies to network plans not otherwise exempt under Section 3.

(Source: P.A. 102-92, eff. 7-9-21; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-650)

Sec. 25. Network transparency.

(a) A network plan shall post electronically an up-to-date, accurate, and complete provider directory for each of its network plans, with the information and search functions, as described in this Section.

(1) In making the directory available electronically, the network plans shall ensure that the general public is able to view all of the current providers for a plan through a clearly identifiable link or tab and without creating or accessing an account or entering a policy or contract number.

(2) An issuer's failure to update a network plan's directory shall subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per month. Providers shall notify the network plan electronically or in writing within 10 business days of any changes to their information as listed in the provider directory, including the information required in subsections (b), (c), and (d). With regard to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b), the provider must give notice to the issuer within 20 business days of deciding to cease accepting new patients covered by the plan if the new patient limitation is expected to last 40 business days or longer. The network plan shall update its online provider directory in a manner consistent with the

information provided by the provider within 2 business days after being notified of the change by the provider. Nothing in this paragraph (2) shall void any contractual relationship between the provider and the plan.

(3) At least once every 90 days, the issuer shall self-audit each network plan's provider directories for accuracy, make any corrections necessary, and retain documentation of the audit. The issuer shall submit the self-audit and a summary to the Department, and the Department shall make the summary of each self-audit publicly available. The Department shall specify the requirements of the summary, which shall be statistical in nature except for a high-level narrative evaluating the impact of internal and external factors on the accuracy of the directory and the timeliness of updates. As part of these self-audits, the network plan shall contact any provider in its network that has not submitted a claim to the plan or otherwise communicated his or her intent to continue participation in the plan's network. The self-audits shall comply with 42 U.S.C. 300gg-115(a)(2), except that "provider directory information" shall include all information required to be included in a provider directory pursuant to this Act.

(4) A network plan shall provide a printed ~~print~~ copy of a current provider directory or a printed ~~print~~ copy of the requested directory information upon request of a

beneficiary or a prospective beneficiary. Except when an issuer's printed ~~print~~ copies use the same provider information as the electronic provider directory on each printed ~~print~~ copy's date of printing, printed ~~print~~ copies must be updated at least every 90 days and errata that reflects changes in the provider network must be included in each update.

(5) For each network plan, a network plan shall include, in plain language in both the electronic and print directory, the following general information:

(A) in plain language, a description of the criteria the plan has used to build its provider network;

(B) if applicable, in plain language, a description of the criteria the issuer or network plan has used to create tiered networks;

(C) if applicable, in plain language, how the network plan designates the different provider tiers or levels in the network and identifies for each specific provider, hospital, or other type of facility in the network which tier each is placed, for example, by name, symbols, or grouping, in order for a beneficiary-covered person or a prospective beneficiary-covered person to be able to identify the provider tier;

(D) if applicable, a notation that authorization

or referral may be required to access some providers;

(E) a telephone number and email address for a customer service representative to whom directory inaccuracies may be reported; and

(F) a detailed description of the process to dispute charges for out-of-network providers, hospitals, or facilities that were incorrectly listed as in-network prior to the provision of care and a telephone number and email address to dispute such charges.

(6) A network plan shall make it clear for both its electronic and print directories what provider directory applies to which network plan, such as including the specific name of the network plan as marketed and issued in this State. The network plan shall include in both its electronic and print directories a customer service email address and telephone number or electronic link that beneficiaries or the general public may use to notify the network plan of inaccurate provider directory information and contact information for the Department's Office of Consumer Health Insurance.

(7) A provider directory, whether in electronic or print format, shall accommodate the communication needs of individuals with disabilities, and include a link to or information regarding available assistance for persons with limited English proficiency.

(b) For each network plan, a network plan shall make available through an electronic provider directory the following information in a searchable format:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) name;

(B) gender;

(C) participating office locations;

(D) patient population served (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) and specialty or subspecialty, if applicable;

(E) medical group affiliations, if applicable;

(F) facility affiliations, if applicable;

(G) participating facility affiliations, if applicable;

(H) languages spoken other than English, if applicable;

(I) whether accepting new patients;

(J) board certifications, if applicable;

(K) use of telehealth or telemedicine, including, but not limited to:

(i) whether the provider offers the use of telehealth or telemedicine to deliver services to patients for whom it would be clinically appropriate;

(ii) what modalities are used and what types of services may be provided via telehealth or

telemedicine; and

(iii) whether the provider has the ability and willingness to include in a telehealth or telemedicine encounter a family caregiver who is in a separate location than the patient if the patient wishes and provides his or her consent;

(L) whether the health care professional accepts appointment requests from patients; and

(M) the anticipated date the provider will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms that the provider is scheduled to leave the network;

(2) for hospitals:

(A) hospital name;

(B) hospital type (such as acute, rehabilitation, children's, or cancer);

(C) participating hospital location;

(D) hospital accreditation status; and

(E) the anticipated date the hospital will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms the hospital is scheduled to leave the network; and

(3) for facilities, other than hospitals, by type:

(A) facility name;

(B) facility type;

(C) types of services performed;

(D) participating facility location or locations; and

(E) the anticipated date the facility will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms the facility is scheduled to leave the network.

(c) For the electronic provider directories, for each network plan, a network plan shall make available all of the following information in addition to the searchable information required in this Section:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) contact information, including both a telephone number and digital contact information if the provider has supplied digital contact information; and

(B) languages spoken other than English by clinical staff, if applicable;

(2) for hospitals, telephone number and digital contact information; and

(3) for facilities other than hospitals, telephone number.

(d) The issuer or network plan shall make available in print, upon request, the following provider directory information for the applicable network plan:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) name;

(B) contact information, including a telephone number and digital contact information if the provider has supplied digital contact information;

(C) participating office location or locations;

(D) patient population (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) and specialty or subspecialty, if applicable;

(E) languages spoken other than English, if applicable;

(F) whether accepting new patients;

(G) use of telehealth or telemedicine, including, but not limited to:

(i) whether the provider offers the use of telehealth or telemedicine to deliver services to patients for whom it would be clinically appropriate;

(ii) what modalities are used and what types of services may be provided via telehealth or telemedicine; and

(iii) whether the provider has the ability and willingness to include in a telehealth or telemedicine encounter a family caregiver who is in a separate location than the patient if the patient wishes and provides his or her consent; and

(H) whether the health care professional accepts

appointment requests from patients; ~~.~~

(2) for hospitals:

(A) hospital name;

(B) hospital type (such as acute, rehabilitation, children's, or cancer); and

(C) participating hospital location, telephone number, and digital contact information; and

(3) for facilities, other than hospitals, by type:

(A) facility name;

(B) facility type;

(C) patient population (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) served, if applicable, and types of services performed; and

(D) participating facility location or locations, telephone numbers, and digital contact information for each location.

(e) The network plan shall include a disclosure in the print format provider directory that the information included in the directory is accurate as of the date of printing and that beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries should consult the issuer's electronic provider directory on its website and contact the provider. The network plan shall also include a telephone number and email address in the print format provider directory for a customer service representative where the beneficiary can obtain current provider directory information or report provider directory inaccuracies. The

printed provider directory shall include a detailed description of the process to dispute charges for out-of-network providers, hospitals, or facilities that were incorrectly listed as in-network prior to the provision of care and a telephone number and email address to dispute those charges.

(f) The Director may conduct periodic audits of the accuracy of provider directories. A network plan shall not be subject to any fines or penalties for information required in this Section that a provider submits that is inaccurate or incomplete.

(g) To the extent not otherwise provided in this Act, an issuer shall comply with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 300gg-115, except that "provider directory information" shall include all information required to be included in a provider directory pursuant to this Section.

(h) If the issuer or the Department identifies a provider incorrectly listed in the provider directory, the issuer shall check each of the issuer's network plan provider directories for the provider within 2 business days to ascertain whether the provider is a preferred provider in that network plan and, if the provider is incorrectly listed in the provider directory, remove the provider from the provider directory without delay.

(i) If the Director determines that an issuer violated this Section, the Director may assess a fine up to $5,000 per

violation, except for inaccurate information given by a provider to the issuer. If an issuer, or any entity or person acting on the issuer's behalf, knew or reasonably should have known that a provider was incorrectly included in a provider directory, the Director may assess a fine of up to $25,000 per violation against the issuer.

(j) This Section applies to network plans not otherwise exempt under Section 3~~, including stand alone dental plans~~.

(Source: P.A. 102-92, eff. 7-9-21; 103-650, eff. 1-1-25.)

(Text of Section from P.A. 103-777)

Sec. 25. Network transparency.

(a) A network plan shall post electronically an up-to-date, accurate, and complete provider directory for each of its network plans, with the information and search functions, as described in this Section.

(1) In making the directory available electronically, the network plans shall ensure that the general public is able to view all of the current providers for a plan through a clearly identifiable link or tab and without creating or accessing an account or entering a policy or contract number.

(2) An issuer's failure to update a network plan's directory shall subject the issuer to a civil penalty of $5,000 per month. ~~The network plan shall update the online provider directory at least monthly.~~ Providers shall

notify the network plan electronically or in writing within 10 business days of any changes to their information as listed in the provider directory, including the information required in subsections (b), (c), and (d) ~~subparagraph (K) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b)~~. With regard to subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b), the provider must give notice to the issuer within 20 business days of deciding to cease accepting new patients covered by the plan if the new patient limitation is expected to last 40 business days or longer. The network plan shall update its online provider directory in a manner consistent with the information provided by the provider within 2 ~~10~~ business days after being notified of the change by the provider. Nothing in this paragraph (2) shall void any contractual relationship between the provider and the plan.

(3) At least once every 90 days, the issuer shall self-audit each network plan's ~~The network plan shall audit periodically at least 25% of its~~ provider directories for accuracy, make any corrections necessary, and retain documentation of the audit. The issuer shall submit the self-audit and a summary to the Department, and the Department shall make the summary of each self-audit publicly available. The Department shall specify the requirements of the summary, which shall be statistical in nature except for a high-level narrative evaluating the

impact of internal and external factors on the accuracy of the directory and the timeliness of updates. ~~The network plan shall submit the audit to the Director upon request.~~ As part of these self-audits ~~audits~~, the network plan shall contact any provider in its network that has not submitted a claim to the plan or otherwise communicated his or her intent to continue participation in the plan's network. The self-audits shall comply with 42 U.S.C. 300gg-115(a)(2), except that "provider directory information" shall include all information required to be included in a provider directory pursuant to this Act.

(4) A network plan shall provide a printed copy of a current provider directory or a printed copy of the requested directory information upon request of a beneficiary or a prospective beneficiary. Except when an issuer's printed copies use the same provider information as the electronic provider directory on each printed copy's date of printing, printed ~~Printed~~ copies must be updated at least every 90 days ~~quarterly~~ and ~~an~~ errata that reflects changes in the provider network must be included in each update ~~updated quarterly~~.

(5) For each network plan, a network plan shall include, in plain language in both the electronic and print directory, the following general information:

(A) in plain language, a description of the criteria the plan has used to build its provider

network;

(B) if applicable, in plain language, a description of the criteria the issuer ~~insurer~~ or network plan has used to create tiered networks;

(C) if applicable, in plain language, how the network plan designates the different provider tiers or levels in the network and identifies for each specific provider, hospital, or other type of facility in the network which tier each is placed, for example, by name, symbols, or grouping, in order for a beneficiary-covered person or a prospective beneficiary-covered person to be able to identify the provider tier; ~~and~~

(D) if applicable, a notation that authorization or referral may be required to access some providers;~~.~~

(E) a telephone number and email address for a customer service representative to whom directory inaccuracies may be reported; and

(F) a detailed description of the process to dispute charges for out-of-network providers, hospitals, or facilities that were incorrectly listed as in-network prior to the provision of care and a telephone number and email address to dispute such charges.

(6) A network plan shall make it clear for both its electronic and print directories what provider directory

applies to which network plan, such as including the specific name of the network plan as marketed and issued in this State. The network plan shall include in both its electronic and print directories a customer service email address and telephone number or electronic link that beneficiaries or the general public may use to notify the network plan of inaccurate provider directory information and contact information for the Department's Office of Consumer Health Insurance.

(7) A provider directory, whether in electronic or print format, shall accommodate the communication needs of individuals with disabilities, and include a link to or information regarding available assistance for persons with limited English proficiency.

(b) For each network plan, a network plan shall make available through an electronic provider directory the following information in a searchable format:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) name;

(B) gender;

(C) participating office locations;

(D) <u>patient population served (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) and</u> specialty <u>or subspecialty</u>, if applicable;

(E) medical group affiliations, if applicable;

(F) facility affiliations, if applicable;

(G) participating facility affiliations, if applicable;

(H) languages spoken other than English, if applicable;

(I) whether accepting new patients;

(J) board certifications, if applicable; ~~and~~

(K) use of telehealth or telemedicine, including, but not limited to:

(i) whether the provider offers the use of telehealth or telemedicine to deliver services to patients for whom it would be clinically appropriate;

(ii) what modalities are used and what types of services may be provided via telehealth or telemedicine; and

(iii) whether the provider has the ability and willingness to include in a telehealth or telemedicine encounter a family caregiver who is in a separate location than the patient if the patient wishes and provides his or her consent;

(L) whether the health care professional accepts appointment requests from patients; and

(M) the anticipated date the provider will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms that the provider is scheduled to leave

the network;

(2) for hospitals:

(A) hospital name;

(B) hospital type (such as acute, rehabilitation, children's, or cancer);

(C) participating hospital location; ~~and~~

(D) hospital accreditation status; and

(E) the anticipated date the hospital will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms the hospital is scheduled to leave the network; and

(3) for facilities, other than hospitals, by type:

(A) facility name;

(B) facility type;

(C) types of services performed; ~~and~~

(D) participating facility location or locations; and~~.~~

(E) the anticipated date the facility will leave the network, if applicable, which shall be included no more than 10 days after the issuer confirms the facility is scheduled to leave the network.

(c) For the electronic provider directories, for each network plan, a network plan shall make available all of the following information in addition to the searchable information required in this Section:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) contact information, including both a telephone number and digital contact information if the provider has supplied digital contact information; and

(B) languages spoken other than English by clinical staff, if applicable;

(2) for hospitals, telephone number and digital contact information; and

(3) for facilities other than hospitals, telephone number.

(d) The issuer ~~insurer~~ or network plan shall make available in print, upon request, the following provider directory information for the applicable network plan:

(1) for health care professionals:

(A) name;

(B) contact information, including a telephone number and digital contact information if the provider has supplied digital contact information;

(C) participating office location or locations;

(D) patient population (such as pediatric, adult, elderly, or women) and specialty or subspecialty, if applicable;

(E) languages spoken other than English, if applicable;

(F) whether accepting new patients; ~~and~~

(G) use of telehealth or telemedicine, including,

but not limited to:

(i) whether the provider offers the use of telehealth or telemedicine to deliver services to patients for whom it would be clinically appropriate;

(ii) what modalities are used and what types of services may be provided via telehealth or telemedicine; and

(iii) whether the provider has the ability and willingness to include in a telehealth or telemedicine encounter a family caregiver who is in a separate location than the patient if the patient wishes and provides his or her consent; and

(H) whether the health care professional accepts appointment requests from patients;

(2) for hospitals:

(A) hospital name;

(B) hospital type (such as acute, rehabilitation, children's, or cancer); and

(C) participating hospital location, ~~and~~ telephone number, and digital contact information; and

(3) for facilities, other than hospitals, by type:

(A) facility name;

(B) facility type;

(C) patient population (such as pediatric, adult,

elderly, or women) served, if applicable, and types of services performed; and

(D) participating facility location or locations, ~~and~~ telephone numbers, and digital contact information for each location.

(e) The network plan shall include a disclosure in the print format provider directory that the information included in the directory is accurate as of the date of printing and that beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries should consult the issuer's ~~insurer's~~ electronic provider directory on its website and contact the provider. The network plan shall also include a telephone number and email address in the print format provider directory for a customer service representative where the beneficiary can obtain current provider directory information or report provider directory inaccuracies. The printed provider directory shall include a detailed description of the process to dispute charges for out-of-network providers, hospitals, or facilities that were incorrectly listed as in-network prior to the provision of care and a telephone number and email address to dispute those charges.

(f) The Director may conduct periodic audits of the accuracy of provider directories. A network plan shall not be subject to any fines or penalties for information required in this Section that a provider submits that is inaccurate or incomplete.

(g) To the extent not otherwise provided in this Act, an issuer shall comply with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 300gg-115, except that "provider directory information" shall include all information required to be included in a provider directory pursuant to this Section.

(h) If the issuer or the Department identifies a provider incorrectly listed in the provider directory, the issuer shall check each of the issuer's network plan provider directories for the provider within 2 business days to ascertain whether the provider is a preferred provider in that network plan and, if the provider is incorrectly listed in the provider directory, remove the provider from the provider directory without delay.

(i) If the Director determines that an issuer violated this Section, the Director may assess a fine up to $5,000 per violation, except for inaccurate information given by a provider to the issuer. If an issuer, or any entity or person acting on the issuer's behalf, knew or reasonably should have known that a provider was incorrectly included in a provider directory, the Director may assess a fine of up to $25,000 per violation against the issuer.

(j) ~~(g)~~ This Section applies to network plans ~~that are~~ not otherwise exempt under Section 3~~, including stand-alone dental plans that are subject to provider directory requirements under federal law~~.

(Source: P.A. 102-92, eff. 7-9-21; 103-777, eff. 1-1-25.)

Section 20. The Health Maintenance Organization Act is amended by changing Section 5-3 as follows:

(215 ILCS 125/5-3) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1411.2)

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 103-808)

Sec. 5-3. Insurance Code provisions.

(a) Health Maintenance Organizations shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 133, 134, 136, 137, 139, 140, 141.1, 141.2, 141.3, 143, 143.31, 143c, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 154.5, 154.6, 154.7, 154.8, 155.04, 155.22a, 155.49, 352c, 355.2, 355.3, 355.6, 355b, 355c, 356f, 356g.5-1, 356m, 356q, 356u.10, 356v, 356w, 356x, 356z.2, 356z.3a, 356z.4, 356z.4a, 356z.5, 356z.6, 356z.8, 356z.9, 356z.10, 356z.11, 356z.12, 356z.13, 356z.14, 356z.15, 356z.17, 356z.18, 356z.19, 356z.20, 356z.21, 356z.22, 356z.23, 356z.24, 356z.25, 356z.26, 356z.28, 356z.29, 356z.30, 356z.31, 356z.32, 356z.33, 356z.34, 356z.35, 356z.36, 356z.37, 356z.38, 356z.39, 356z.40, 356z.40a, 356z.41, 356z.44, 356z.45, 356z.46, 356z.47, 356z.48, 356z.49, 356z.50, 356z.51, 356z.53, 356z.54, 356z.55, 356z.56, 356z.57, 356z.58, 356z.59, 356z.60, 356z.61, 356z.62, 356z.63, 356z.64, 356z.65, 356z.66, 356z.67, 356z.68, 356z.69, 356z.70, 356z.71, 356z.72, 356z.73, 356z.74, 356z.75, 356z.76, 356z.77, 356z.78, 364, 364.01, 364.3, 367.2, 367.2-5, 367i, 368a, 368b, 368c, 368d, 368e, 370c, 370c.1, 401, 401.1, 402, 403, 403A, 408, 408.2, 409, 412, 444, and 444.1, paragraph (c)

of subsection (2) of Section 367, and Articles IIA, VIII 1/2, XII, XII 1/2, XIII, XIII 1/2, XXV, XXVI, and XXXIIB of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(b) For purposes of the Illinois Insurance Code, except for Sections 444 and 444.1 and Articles XIII and XIII 1/2, Health Maintenance Organizations in the following categories are deemed to be "domestic companies":

(1) a corporation authorized under the Dental Service Plan Act or the Voluntary Health Services Plans Act;

(2) a corporation organized under the laws of this State; or

(3) a corporation organized under the laws of another state, 30% or more of the enrollees of which are residents of this State, except a corporation subject to substantially the same requirements in its state of organization as is a "domestic company" under Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(c) In considering the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control of a Health Maintenance Organization pursuant to Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code,

(1) the Director shall give primary consideration to the continuation of benefits to enrollees and the financial conditions of the acquired Health Maintenance Organization after the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control takes effect;

(2)(i) the criteria specified in subsection (1)(b) of

Section 131.8 of the Illinois Insurance Code shall not apply and (ii) the Director, in making his determination with respect to the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control, need not take into account the effect on competition of the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control;

(3) the Director shall have the power to require the following information:

(A) certification by an independent actuary of the adequacy of the reserves of the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired;

(B) pro forma financial statements reflecting the combined balance sheets of the acquiring company and the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired as of the end of the preceding year and as of a date 90 days prior to the acquisition, as well as pro forma financial statements reflecting projected combined operation for a period of 2 years;

(C) a pro forma business plan detailing an acquiring party's plans with respect to the operation of the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired for a period of not less than 3 years; and

(D) such other information as the Director shall require.

(d) The provisions of Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code and this Section 5-3 shall apply to the sale by

any health maintenance organization of greater than 10% of its enrollee population (including, without limitation, the health maintenance organization's right, title, and interest in and to its health care certificates).

(e) In considering any management contract or service agreement subject to Section 141.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code, the Director (i) shall, in addition to the criteria specified in Section 141.2 of the Illinois Insurance Code, take into account the effect of the management contract or service agreement on the continuation of benefits to enrollees and the financial condition of the health maintenance organization to be managed or serviced, and (ii) need not take into account the effect of the management contract or service agreement on competition.

(f) Except for small employer groups as defined in the Small Employer Rating, Renewability and Portability Health Insurance Act and except for medicare supplement policies as defined in Section 363 of the Illinois Insurance Code, a Health Maintenance Organization may by contract agree with a group or other enrollment unit to effect refunds or charge additional premiums under the following terms and conditions:

(i) the amount of, and other terms and conditions with respect to, the refund or additional premium are set forth in the group or enrollment unit contract agreed in advance of the period for which a refund is to be paid or additional premium is to be charged (which period shall

not be less than one year); and

(ii) the amount of the refund or additional premium shall not exceed 20% of the Health Maintenance Organization's profitable or unprofitable experience with respect to the group or other enrollment unit for the period (and, for purposes of a refund or additional premium, the profitable or unprofitable experience shall be calculated taking into account a pro rata share of the Health Maintenance Organization's administrative and marketing expenses, but shall not include any refund to be made or additional premium to be paid pursuant to this subsection (f)). The Health Maintenance Organization and the group or enrollment unit may agree that the profitable or unprofitable experience may be calculated taking into account the refund period and the immediately preceding 2 plan years.

The Health Maintenance Organization shall include a statement in the evidence of coverage issued to each enrollee describing the possibility of a refund or additional premium, and upon request of any group or enrollment unit, provide to the group or enrollment unit a description of the method used to calculate (1) the Health Maintenance Organization's profitable experience with respect to the group or enrollment unit and the resulting refund to the group or enrollment unit or (2) the Health Maintenance Organization's unprofitable experience with respect to the group or enrollment unit and

the resulting additional premium to be paid by the group or enrollment unit.

In no event shall the Illinois Health Maintenance Organization Guaranty Association be liable to pay any contractual obligation of an insolvent organization to pay any refund authorized under this Section.

(g) Rulemaking authority to implement Public Act 95-1045, if any, is conditioned on the rules being adopted in accordance with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act and all rules and procedures of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules; any purported rule not so adopted, for whatever reason, is unauthorized.

(Source: P.A. 102-30, eff. 1-1-22; 102-34, eff. 6-25-21; 102-203, eff. 1-1-22; 102-306, eff. 1-1-22; 102-443, eff. 1-1-22; 102-589, eff. 1-1-22; 102-642, eff. 1-1-22; 102-665, eff. 10-8-21; 102-731, eff. 1-1-23; 102-775, eff. 5-13-22; 102-804, eff. 1-1-23; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-816, eff. 1-1-23; 102-860, eff. 1-1-23; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1093, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-84, eff. 1-1-24; 103-91, eff. 1-1-24; 103-123, eff. 1-1-24; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-420, eff. 1-1-24; 103-426, eff. 8-4-23; 103-445, eff. 1-1-24; 103-551, eff. 8-11-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-618, eff. 1-1-25; 103-649, eff. 1-1-25; 103-656, eff. 1-1-25; 103-700, eff. 1-1-25; 103-718, eff. 7-19-24; 103-751, eff. 8-2-24; 103-753, eff. 8-2-24; 103-758, eff. 1-1-25; 103-777, eff. 8-2-24; 103-914, eff. 1-1-25; 103-918, eff.

1-1-25; 103-1024, eff. 1-1-25; revised 9-26-24.)

(Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 103-808)

Sec. 5-3. Insurance Code provisions.

(a) Health Maintenance Organizations shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 133, 134, 136, 137, 139, 140, 141.1, 141.2, 141.3, 143, 143.31, 143c, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 154.5, 154.6, 154.7, 154.8, 155.04, 155.22a, 155.49, 352c, 355.2, 355.3, 355.6, 355b, 355c, 356f, 356g, 356g.5-1, 356m, 356q, 356u.10, 356v, 356w, 356x, 356z.2, 356z.3a, 356z.4, 356z.4a, 356z.5, 356z.6, 356z.8, 356z.9, 356z.10, 356z.11, 356z.12, 356z.13, 356z.14, 356z.15, 356z.17, 356z.18, 356z.19, 356z.20, 356z.21, 356z.22, 356z.23, 356z.24, 356z.25, 356z.26, 356z.28, 356z.29, 356z.30, 356z.31, 356z.32, 356z.33, 356z.34, 356z.35, 356z.36, 356z.37, 356z.38, 356z.39, 356z.40, 356z.40a, 356z.41, 356z.44, 356z.45, 356z.46, 356z.47, 356z.48, 356z.49, 356z.50, 356z.51, 356z.53, 356z.54, 356z.55, 356z.56, 356z.57, 356z.58, 356z.59, 356z.60, 356z.61, 356z.62, 356z.63, 356z.64, 356z.65, 356z.66, 356z.67, 356z.68, 356z.69, 356z.70, 356z.71, 356z.72, 356z.73, 356z.74, 356z.75, 356z.76, 356z.77, 356z.78, 364, 364.01, 364.3, 367.2, 367.2-5, 367i, 368a, 368b, 368c, 368d, 368e, 370c, 370c.1, 401, 401.1, 402, 403, 403A, 408, 408.2, 409, 412, 444, and 444.1, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of Section 367, and Articles IIA, VIII 1/2, XII, XII 1/2, XIII, XIII 1/2, XXV, XXVI, and XXXIIB of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(b) For purposes of the Illinois Insurance Code, except for Sections 444 and 444.1 and Articles XIII and XIII 1/2, Health Maintenance Organizations in the following categories are deemed to be "domestic companies":

(1) a corporation authorized under the Dental Service Plan Act or the Voluntary Health Services Plans Act;

(2) a corporation organized under the laws of this State; or

(3) a corporation organized under the laws of another state, 30% or more of the enrollees of which are residents of this State, except a corporation subject to substantially the same requirements in its state of organization as is a "domestic company" under Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(c) In considering the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control of a Health Maintenance Organization pursuant to Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code,

(1) the Director shall give primary consideration to the continuation of benefits to enrollees and the financial conditions of the acquired Health Maintenance Organization after the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control takes effect;

(2)(i) the criteria specified in subsection (1)(b) of Section 131.8 of the Illinois Insurance Code shall not apply and (ii) the Director, in making his determination with respect to the merger, consolidation, or other

acquisition of control, need not take into account the effect on competition of the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control;

(3) the Director shall have the power to require the following information:

(A) certification by an independent actuary of the adequacy of the reserves of the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired;

(B) pro forma financial statements reflecting the combined balance sheets of the acquiring company and the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired as of the end of the preceding year and as of a date 90 days prior to the acquisition, as well as pro forma financial statements reflecting projected combined operation for a period of 2 years;

(C) a pro forma business plan detailing an acquiring party's plans with respect to the operation of the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired for a period of not less than 3 years; and

(D) such other information as the Director shall require.

(d) The provisions of Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code and this Section 5-3 shall apply to the sale by any health maintenance organization of greater than 10% of its enrollee population (including, without limitation, the health maintenance organization's right, title, and interest in and

to its health care certificates).

(e) In considering any management contract or service agreement subject to Section 141.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code, the Director (i) shall, in addition to the criteria specified in Section 141.2 of the Illinois Insurance Code, take into account the effect of the management contract or service agreement on the continuation of benefits to enrollees and the financial condition of the health maintenance organization to be managed or serviced, and (ii) need not take into account the effect of the management contract or service agreement on competition.

(f) Except for small employer groups as defined in the Small Employer Rating, Renewability and Portability Health Insurance Act and except for medicare supplement policies as defined in Section 363 of the Illinois Insurance Code, a Health Maintenance Organization may by contract agree with a group or other enrollment unit to effect refunds or charge additional premiums under the following terms and conditions:

(i) the amount of, and other terms and conditions with respect to, the refund or additional premium are set forth in the group or enrollment unit contract agreed in advance of the period for which a refund is to be paid or additional premium is to be charged (which period shall not be less than one year); and

(ii) the amount of the refund or additional premium shall not exceed 20% of the Health Maintenance

Organization's profitable or unprofitable experience with respect to the group or other enrollment unit for the period (and, for purposes of a refund or additional premium, the profitable or unprofitable experience shall be calculated taking into account a pro rata share of the Health Maintenance Organization's administrative and marketing expenses, but shall not include any refund to be made or additional premium to be paid pursuant to this subsection (f)). The Health Maintenance Organization and the group or enrollment unit may agree that the profitable or unprofitable experience may be calculated taking into account the refund period and the immediately preceding 2 plan years.

The Health Maintenance Organization shall include a statement in the evidence of coverage issued to each enrollee describing the possibility of a refund or additional premium, and upon request of any group or enrollment unit, provide to the group or enrollment unit a description of the method used to calculate (1) the Health Maintenance Organization's profitable experience with respect to the group or enrollment unit and the resulting refund to the group or enrollment unit or (2) the Health Maintenance Organization's unprofitable experience with respect to the group or enrollment unit and the resulting additional premium to be paid by the group or enrollment unit.

In no event shall the Illinois Health Maintenance

Organization Guaranty Association be liable to pay any contractual obligation of an insolvent organization to pay any refund authorized under this Section.

(g) Rulemaking authority to implement Public Act 95-1045, if any, is conditioned on the rules being adopted in accordance with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act and all rules and procedures of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules; any purported rule not so adopted, for whatever reason, is unauthorized.

(Source: P.A. 102-30, eff. 1-1-22; 102-34, eff. 6-25-21; 102-203, eff. 1-1-22; 102-306, eff. 1-1-22; 102-443, eff. 1-1-22; 102-589, eff. 1-1-22; 102-642, eff. 1-1-22; 102-665, eff. 10-8-21; 102-731, eff. 1-1-23; 102-775, eff. 5-13-22; 102-804, eff. 1-1-23; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-816, eff. 1-1-23; 102-860, eff. 1-1-23; 102-901, eff. 7-1-22; 102-1093, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-84, eff. 1-1-24; 103-91, eff. 1-1-24; 103-123, eff. 1-1-24; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-420, eff. 1-1-24; 103-426, eff. 8-4-23; 103-445, eff. 1-1-24; 103-551, eff. 8-11-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-618, eff. 1-1-25; 103-649, eff. 1-1-25; 103-656, eff. 1-1-25; 103-700, eff. 1-1-25; 103-718, eff. 7-19-24; 103-751, eff. 8-2-24; 103-753, eff. 8-2-24; 103-758, eff. 1-1-25; 103-777, eff. 8-2-24; 103-808, eff. 1-1-26; 103-914, eff. 1-1-25; 103-918, eff. 1-1-25; 103-1024, eff. 1-1-25; revised 11-26-24.)

Section 25. The Limited Health Service Organization Act is amended by changing Section 4003 as follows:

(215 ILCS 130/4003) (from Ch. 73, par. 1504-3)

Sec. 4003. Illinois Insurance Code provisions. Limited health service organizations shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 133, 134, 136, 137, 139, 140, 141.1, 141.2, 141.3, 143, 143.31, 143c, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 154.5, 154.6, 154.7, 154.8, 155.04, 155.37, 155.49, 352c, 355.2, 355.3, 355b, 355d, 356m, 356q, 356v, 356z.4, 356z.4a, 356z.10, 356z.21, 356z.22, 356z.25, 356z.26, 356z.29, 356z.32, 356z.33, 356z.41, 356z.46, 356z.47, 356z.51, 356z.53, 356z.54, 356z.57, 356z.59, 356z.61, 356z.64, 356z.67, 356z.68, 356z.71, 356z.73, 356z.74, 356z.75, 364.3, 368a, 401, 401.1, 402, 403, 403A, 408, 408.2, 409, 412, 444, and 444.1 and Articles IIA, VIII 1/2, XII, XII 1/2, XIII, XIII 1/2, XXV, ~~and~~ XXVI, and XXXIIB of the Illinois Insurance Code. Nothing in this Section shall require a limited health care plan to cover any service that is not a limited health service. For purposes of the Illinois Insurance Code, except for Sections 444 and 444.1 and Articles XIII and XIII 1/2, limited health service organizations in the following categories are deemed to be domestic companies:

(1) a corporation under the laws of this State; or

(2) a corporation organized under the laws of another state, 30% or more of the enrollees of which are residents

of this State, except a corporation subject to substantially the same requirements in its state of organization as is a domestic company under Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(Source: P.A. 102-30, eff. 1-1-22; 102-203, eff. 1-1-22; 102-306, eff. 1-1-22; 102-642, eff. 1-1-22; 102-731, eff. 1-1-23; 102-775, eff. 5-13-22; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-816, eff. 1-1-23; 102-860, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1093, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1117, eff. 1-13-23; 103-84, eff. 1-1-24; 103-91, eff. 1-1-24; 103-420, eff. 1-1-24; 103-426, eff. 8-4-23; 103-445, eff. 1-1-24; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-649, eff. 1-1-25; 103-656, eff. 1-1-25; 103-700, eff. 1-1-25; 103-718, eff. 7-19-24; 103-751, eff. 8-2-24; 103-758, eff. 1-1-25; 103-832, eff. 1-1-25; 103-1024, eff. 1-1-25; revised 11-26-24.)

Section 30. The Criminal Code of 2012 is amended by changing Section 17-0.5 as follows:

(720 ILCS 5/17-0.5)

Sec. 17-0.5. Definitions. In this Article:

"Altered credit card or debit card" means any instrument or device, whether known as a credit card or debit card, which has been changed in any respect by addition or deletion of any material, except for the signature by the person to whom the card is issued.

"Cardholder" means the person or organization named on the

face of a credit card or debit card to whom or for whose benefit the credit card or debit card is issued by an issuer.

"Computer" means a device that accepts, processes, stores, retrieves, or outputs data and includes, but is not limited to, auxiliary storage, including cloud-based networks of remote services hosted on the Internet, and telecommunications devices connected to computers.

"Computer network" means a set of related, remotely connected devices and any communications facilities including more than one computer with the capability to transmit data between them through the communications facilities.

"Computer program" or "program" means a series of coded instructions or statements in a form acceptable to a computer which causes the computer to process data and supply the results of the data processing.

"Computer services" means computer time or services, including data processing services, Internet services, electronic mail services, electronic message services, or information or data stored in connection therewith.

"Counterfeit" means to manufacture, produce or create, by any means, a credit card or debit card without the purported issuer's consent or authorization.

"Credit card" means any instrument or device, whether known as a credit card, credit plate, charge plate or any other name, issued with or without fee by an issuer for the use of the cardholder in obtaining money, goods, services or anything

else of value on credit or in consideration or an undertaking or guaranty by the issuer of the payment of a check drawn by the cardholder.

"Data" means a representation in any form of information, knowledge, facts, concepts, or instructions, including program documentation, which is prepared or has been prepared in a formalized manner and is stored or processed in or transmitted by a computer or in a system or network. Data is considered property and may be in any form, including, but not limited to, printouts, magnetic or optical storage media, punch cards, or data stored internally in the memory of the computer.

"Debit card" means any instrument or device, known by any name, issued with or without fee by an issuer for the use of the cardholder in obtaining money, goods, services, and anything else of value, payment of which is made against funds previously deposited by the cardholder. A debit card which also can be used to obtain money, goods, services and anything else of value on credit shall not be considered a debit card when it is being used to obtain money, goods, services or anything else of value on credit.

"Document" includes, but is not limited to, any document, representation, or image produced manually, electronically, or by computer.

"Electronic fund transfer terminal" means any machine or device that, when properly activated, will perform any of the following services:

(1) Dispense money as a debit to the cardholder's account; or

(2) Print the cardholder's account balances on a statement; or

(3) Transfer funds between a cardholder's accounts; or

(4) Accept payments on a cardholder's loan; or

(5) Dispense cash advances on an open end credit or a revolving charge agreement; or

(6) Accept deposits to a customer's account; or

(7) Receive inquiries of verification of checks and dispense information that verifies that funds are available to cover such checks; or

(8) Cause money to be transferred electronically from a cardholder's account to an account held by any business, firm, retail merchant, corporation, or any other organization.

"Electronic funds transfer system", hereafter referred to as "EFT System", means that system whereby funds are transferred electronically from a cardholder's account to any other account.

"Electronic mail service provider" means any person who (i) is an intermediary in sending or receiving electronic mail and (ii) provides to end-users of electronic mail services the ability to send or receive electronic mail.

"Expired credit card or debit card" means a credit card or debit card which is no longer valid because the term on it has

elapsed.

"False academic degree" means a certificate, diploma, transcript, or other document purporting to be issued by an institution of higher learning or purporting to indicate that a person has completed an organized academic program of study at an institution of higher learning when the person has not completed the organized academic program of study indicated on the certificate, diploma, transcript, or other document.

"False claim" means any statement made to any insurer, purported insurer, servicing corporation, insurance broker, or insurance agent, or any agent or employee of one of those entities, and made as part of, or in support of, a claim for payment or other benefit under a policy of insurance, or as part of, or in support of, an application for the issuance of, or the rating of, any insurance policy, when the statement does any of the following:

(1) Contains any false, incomplete, or misleading information concerning any fact or thing material to the claim.

(2) Conceals (i) the occurrence of an event that is material to any person's initial or continued right or entitlement to any insurance benefit or payment or (ii) the amount of any benefit or payment to which the person is entitled.

"Financial institution" means any bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or other depository of money or

medium of savings and collective investment.

"Governmental entity" means: each officer, board, commission, and agency created by the Constitution, whether in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of State government; each officer, department, board, commission, agency, institution, authority, university, and body politic and corporate of the State; each administrative unit or corporate outgrowth of State government that is created by or pursuant to statute, including units of local government and their officers, school districts, and boards of election commissioners; and each administrative unit or corporate outgrowth of the foregoing items and as may be created by executive order of the Governor.

"Incomplete credit card or debit card" means a credit card or debit card which is missing part of the matter other than the signature of the cardholder which an issuer requires to appear on the credit card or debit card before it can be used by a cardholder, and this includes credit cards or debit cards which have not been stamped, embossed, imprinted or written on.

"Institution of higher learning" means a public or private college, university, or community college located in the State of Illinois that is authorized by the Board of Higher Education or the Illinois Community College Board to issue post-secondary degrees, or a public or private college, university, or community college located anywhere in the

United States that is or has been legally constituted to offer degrees and instruction in its state of origin or incorporation.

"Insurance company" means any "company" as defined under Section 2 of the Illinois Insurance Code, "dental service plan corporation" as defined in Section 3 of the Dental Service Plan Act, "health maintenance organization" as defined in Section 1-2 of the Health Maintenance Organization Act, "limited health service organization" as defined in Section 1002 of the Limited Health Service Organization Act, "health services plan corporation" as defined in Section 2 of the Voluntary Health Services Plans Act, or any trust fund organized under the Religious and Charitable Risk Pooling Trust Act.

"Issuer" means the business organization or financial institution which issues a credit card or debit card, or its duly authorized agent.

"Merchant" has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 16-0.1 of this Code.

"Person" means any individual, corporation, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association or any other entity.

"Receives" or "receiving" means acquiring possession or control.

"Record of charge form" means any document submitted or intended to be submitted to an issuer as evidence of a credit

transaction for which the issuer has agreed to reimburse persons providing money, goods, property, services or other things of value.

"Revoked credit card or debit card" means a credit card or debit card which is no longer valid because permission to use it has been suspended or terminated by the issuer.

"Sale" means any delivery for value.

"Scheme or artifice to defraud" includes a scheme or artifice to deprive another of the intangible right to honest services.

"Self-insured entity" means any person, business, partnership, corporation, or organization that sets aside funds to meet his, her, or its losses or to absorb fluctuations in the amount of loss, the losses being charged against the funds set aside or accumulated.

"Social networking website" means an Internet website containing profile web pages of the members of the website that include the names or nicknames of such members, photographs placed on the profile web pages by such members, or any other personal or personally identifying information about such members and links to other profile web pages on social networking websites of friends or associates of such members that can be accessed by other members or visitors to the website. A social networking website provides members of or visitors to such website the ability to leave messages or comments on the profile web page that are visible to all or

some visitors to the profile web page and may also include a form of electronic mail for members of the social networking website.

"Statement" means any assertion, oral, written, or otherwise, and includes, but is not limited to: any notice, letter, or memorandum; proof of loss; bill of lading; receipt for payment; invoice, account, or other financial statement; estimate of property damage; bill for services; diagnosis or prognosis; prescription; hospital, medical, or dental chart or other record, x-ray, photograph, videotape, or movie film; test result; other evidence of loss, injury, or expense; computer-generated document; and data in any form.

"Universal Price Code Label" means a unique symbol that consists of a machine-readable code and human-readable numbers.

"With intent to defraud" means to act knowingly, and with the specific intent to deceive or cheat, for the purpose of causing financial loss to another or bringing some financial gain to oneself, regardless of whether any person was actually defrauded or deceived. This includes an intent to cause another to assume, create, transfer, alter, or terminate any right, obligation, or power with reference to any person or property.

(Source: P.A. 101-87, eff. 1-1-20.)

Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes

changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other Public Act.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law, except that the changes to Section 1563 of the Illinois Insurance Code take effect January 1, 2026, and the changes to Section 174 of the Illinois Insurance Code take effect 60 days after becoming law.