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HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to health insurance; amending s. 408.05,
3 F.S.; changing the due date for a report from the Agency
4 for Health Care Administration regarding the State Center
5 for Health Statistics; amending s. 408.909, F.S.;
6 providing an additional criterion for the Office of
7 Insurance Regulation to disapprove or withdraw approval of
8 health flex plans; amending s. 627.413, F.S.; authorizing
9 insurers and health maintenance organizations to offer
10 policies or contracts providing for a high-deductible plan
11 meeting federal requirements and in conjunction with a
12 health savings account; amending s. 627.638, F.S.;
13 revising direct payment provisions for insurers; amending
14 s. 627.6402, F.S.; revising the requirements for the
15 healthy lifestyle premium rebate; amending s. 627.65626,
16 F.S.; providing insurance rebates for healthy lifestyles;
17 amending s. 627.6692, F.S.; extending a time period within
18 which eligible employees may apply for continuation of
19 coverage; amending s. 627.6699, F.S.; revising standards
20 for determining applicability of the Employee Health Care
21 Access Act; prescribing acts that may be performed by an
22 employer without being considered contributing to premiums
23 or facilitating administration of a policy; authorizing
24 certain carriers to offer coverage to certain employees
25 without being subject to the act under certain
26 circumstances; requiring a carrier who offers such
27 coverage to provide notice to the primary insured prior to
28 cancellation for nonpayment of premium; revising an

Page 1 of 23

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

hb0811-06-er

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

29 | availability of coverage provision of the Employee Health
 30 | Care Access Act; including high-deductible plans meeting
 31 | federal health savings account plan requirements; revising
 32 | membership of the board of the small employer health
 33 | reinsurance program; revising certain reporting dates
 34 | relating to program losses and assessments; requiring the
 35 | board to advise executive and legislative entities on
 36 | health insurance issues; providing requirements; amending
 37 | s. 641.27, F.S.; increasing the interval at which the
 38 | office examines health maintenance organizations; deleting
 39 | authorization for the office to accept an audit report
 40 | from a certified public accountant in lieu of conducting
 41 | its own examination; increasing an expense limitation;
 42 | amending s. 641.31, F.S.; providing for an insurance
 43 | rebate for members in a health wellness program; providing
 44 | for the rebate to cease under certain conditions;
 45 | providing effective dates.

46 |

47 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

48 |

49 | Section 1. Paragraph (1) of subsection (3) of section
 50 | 408.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

51 | 408.05 State Center for Health Statistics.--

52 | (3) COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM.--In order to
 53 | produce comparable and uniform health information and
 54 | statistics, the agency shall perform the following functions:

55 | (1) Develop, in conjunction with the State Comprehensive
 56 | Health Information System Advisory Council, and implement a

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

57 | long-range plan for making available performance outcome and
 58 | financial data that will allow consumers to compare health care
 59 | services. The performance outcomes and financial data the agency
 60 | must make available shall include, but is not limited to,
 61 | pharmaceuticals, physicians, health care facilities, and health
 62 | plans and managed care entities. The agency shall submit the
 63 | initial plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
 64 | the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January ~~March~~ 1,
 65 | 2006 ~~2005~~, and shall update the plan and report on the status of
 66 | its implementation annually thereafter. The agency shall also
 67 | make the plan and status report available to the public on its
 68 | Internet website. As part of the plan, the agency shall identify
 69 | the process and timeframes for implementation, any barriers to
 70 | implementation, and recommendations of changes in the law that
 71 | may be enacted by the Legislature to eliminate the barriers. As
 72 | preliminary elements of the plan, the agency shall:

73 | 1. Make available performance outcome and patient charge
 74 | data collected from health care facilities pursuant to s.
 75 | 408.061(1)(a) and (2). The agency shall determine which
 76 | conditions and procedures, performance outcomes, and patient
 77 | charge data to disclose based upon input from the council. When
 78 | determining which conditions and procedures are to be disclosed,
 79 | the council and the agency shall consider variation in costs,
 80 | variation in outcomes, and magnitude of variations and other
 81 | relevant information. When determining which performance
 82 | outcomes to disclose, the agency:

83 | a. Shall consider such factors as volume of cases; average
 84 | patient charges; average length of stay; complication rates;

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

85 mortality rates; and infection rates, among others, which shall
 86 be adjusted for case mix and severity, if applicable.

87 b. May consider such additional measures that are adopted
 88 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies, National
 89 Quality Forum, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
 90 Healthcare Organizations, the Agency for Healthcare Research and
 91 Quality, or a similar national entity that establishes standards
 92 to measure the performance of health care providers, or by other
 93 states.

94
 95 When determining which patient charge data to disclose, the
 96 agency shall consider such measures as average charge, average
 97 net revenue per adjusted patient day, average cost per adjusted
 98 patient day, and average cost per admission, among others.

99 2. Make available performance measures, benefit design,
 100 and premium cost data from health plans licensed pursuant to
 101 chapter 627 or chapter 641. The agency shall determine which
 102 performance outcome and member and subscriber cost data to
 103 disclose, based upon input from the council. When determining
 104 which data to disclose, the agency shall consider information
 105 that may be required by either individual or group purchasers to
 106 assess the value of the product, which may include membership
 107 satisfaction, quality of care, current enrollment or membership,
 108 coverage areas, accreditation status, premium costs, plan costs,
 109 premium increases, range of benefits, copayments and
 110 deductibles, accuracy and speed of claims payment, credentials
 111 of physicians, number of providers, names of network providers,
 112 and hospitals in the network. Health plans shall make available

ENROLLED
 HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

113 | to the agency any such data or information that is not currently
 114 | reported to the agency or the office.

115 | 3. Determine the method and format for public disclosure
 116 | of data reported pursuant to this paragraph. The agency shall
 117 | make its determination based upon input from the Comprehensive
 118 | Health Information System Advisory Council. At a minimum, the
 119 | data shall be made available on the agency's Internet website in
 120 | a manner that allows consumers to conduct an interactive search
 121 | that allows them to view and compare the information for
 122 | specific providers. The website must include such additional
 123 | information as is determined necessary to ensure that the
 124 | website enhances informed decisionmaking among consumers and
 125 | health care purchasers, which shall include, at a minimum,
 126 | appropriate guidance on how to use the data and an explanation
 127 | of why the data may vary from provider to provider. The data
 128 | specified in subparagraph 1. shall be released no later than
 129 | January 1, 2006, for the reporting of infection rates, and no
 130 | later than October 1, 2005, for mortality rates and complication
 131 | rates ~~March 1, 2005~~. The data specified in subparagraph 2. shall
 132 | be released no later than October ~~March~~ 1, 2006.

133 | Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 134 | 408.909, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

135 | 408.909 Health flex plans.--

136 | (3) PROGRAM.--The agency and the office shall each approve
 137 | or disapprove health flex plans that provide health care
 138 | coverage for eligible participants. A health flex plan may limit
 139 | or exclude benefits otherwise required by law for insurers
 140 | offering coverage in this state, may cap the total amount of

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

141 | claims paid per year per enrollee, may limit the number of
 142 | enrollees, or may take any combination of those actions. A
 143 | health flex plan offering may include the option of a
 144 | catastrophic plan supplementing the health flex plan.

145 | (b) The office shall develop guidelines for the review of
 146 | health flex plan applications and provide regulatory oversight
 147 | of health flex plan advertisement and marketing procedures. The
 148 | office shall disapprove or shall withdraw approval of plans
 149 | that:

150 | 1. Contain any ambiguous, inconsistent, or misleading
 151 | provisions or any exceptions or conditions that deceptively
 152 | affect or limit the benefits purported to be assumed in the
 153 | general coverage provided by the health flex plan;

154 | 2. Provide benefits that are unreasonable in relation to
 155 | the premium charged or contain provisions that are unfair or
 156 | inequitable or contrary to the public policy of this state, that
 157 | encourage misrepresentation, or that result in unfair
 158 | discrimination in sales practices; ~~or~~

159 | 3. Cannot demonstrate that the health flex plan is
 160 | financially sound and that the applicant is able to underwrite
 161 | or finance the health care coverage provided; or

162 | 4. Cannot demonstrate that the applicant and its
 163 | management are in compliance with the standards required under
 164 | s. 624.404(3).

165 | Section 3. Subsection (6) is added to section 627.413,
 166 | Florida Statutes, to read:

167 | 627.413 Contents of policies, in general; identification.-

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ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

169 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Florida
 170 Insurance Code that is in conflict with federal requirements for
 171 a health savings account qualified high-deductible health plan,
 172 an insurer, or a health maintenance organization subject to part
 173 I of chapter 641, which is authorized to issue health insurance
 174 in this state may offer for sale an individual or group policy
 175 or contract that provides for a high-deductible plan that meets
 176 the federal requirements of a health savings account plan and
 177 which is offered in conjunction with a health savings account.

178 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 627.638, Florida
 179 Statutes, is amended to read:

180 627.638 Direct payment for hospital, medical services.--

181 (2) Whenever, in any health insurance claim form, an
 182 insured specifically authorizes payment of benefits directly to
 183 any recognized hospital, ~~or~~ physician, or dentist, the insurer
 184 shall make such payment to the designated provider of such
 185 services, unless otherwise provided in the insurance contract.
 186 The insurance contract may not prohibit, and claims forms must
 187 provide an option for, the payment of benefits directly to a
 188 licensed hospital, physician, or dentist for care provided
 189 pursuant to s. 395.1041. The insurer may require written
 190 attestation of assignment of benefits. Payment to the provider
 191 from the insurer may not be more than the amount that the
 192 insurer would otherwise have paid without the assignment.

193 Section 5. Section 627.6402, Florida Statutes, is amended
 194 to read:

195 627.6402 Insurance rebates for healthy lifestyles.--

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

196 (1) Any rate, rating schedule, or rating manual for an
 197 individual health insurance policy filed with the office may
 198 ~~shall~~ provide for an appropriate rebate of premiums paid in the
 199 last ~~calendar~~-year when the individual covered by such plan is
 200 enrolled in and maintains participation in any health wellness,
 201 maintenance, or improvement program approved by the health plan.
 202 The rebate may be based on premiums paid in the last calendar
 203 year or the last policy year. The individual must provide
 204 evidence of demonstrative maintenance or improvement of the
 205 individual's health status as determined by assessments of
 206 agreed-upon health status indicators between the individual and
 207 the health insurer, including, but not limited to, reduction in
 208 weight, body mass index, and smoking cessation. Any rebate
 209 provided by the health insurer is presumed to be appropriate
 210 unless credible data demonstrates otherwise, or unless such
 211 rebate program requires the insured to incur costs to qualify
 212 for the rebate which equal or exceed the value of the rebate,
 213 but in no event shall the rebate ~~not~~ exceed 10 percent of paid
 214 premiums.

215 (2) The premium rebate authorized by this section shall be
 216 effective for an insured on an annual basis, unless the
 217 individual fails to maintain or improve his or her health status
 218 while participating in an approved wellness program, or credible
 219 evidence demonstrates that the individual is not participating
 220 in the approved wellness program.

221 Section 6. Section 627.65626, Florida Statutes, is amended
 222 to read:

223 627.65626 Insurance rebates for healthy lifestyles.--

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

224 (1) Any rate, rating schedule, or rating manual for a
 225 health insurance policy that provides creditable coverage as
 226 defined in s. 627.6561(5) filed with the office shall provide
 227 for an appropriate rebate of premiums paid in the last policy
 228 year, contract year, or calendar year when the majority of
 229 members of a health plan have enrolled and maintained
 230 participation in any health wellness, maintenance, or
 231 improvement program offered by the group policyholder and health
 232 plan employer. The rebate may be based upon premiums paid in the
 233 last calendar year or policy year. The group employer must
 234 provide evidence of demonstrative maintenance or improvement of
 235 the enrollees' health status as determined by assessments of
 236 agreed-upon health status indicators between the policyholder
 237 ~~employer~~ and the health insurer, including, but not limited to,
 238 reduction in weight, body mass index, and smoking cessation. The
 239 group or health insurer may contract with a third-party
 240 administrator to assemble and report the health status required
 241 in this subsection between the policyholder and the health
 242 insurer. Any rebate provided by the health insurer is presumed
 243 to be appropriate unless credible data demonstrates otherwise,
 244 or unless the rebate program requires the insured to incur costs
 245 to qualify for the rebate which equal or exceeds the value of
 246 the rebate, but the rebate may ~~shall~~ not exceed 10 percent of
 247 paid premiums.

248 (2) The premium rebate authorized by this section shall be
 249 effective for an insured on an annual basis unless the number of
 250 participating members on the policy renewal anniversary

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

251 | ~~employees~~ becomes less than the majority of the members
 252 | ~~employees~~ eligible for participation in the wellness program.

253 | Section 7. Paragraphs (d) and (j) of subsection (5) of
 254 | section 627.6692, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

255 | 627.6692 Florida Health Insurance Coverage Continuation
 256 | Act.--

257 | (5) CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE UNDER GROUP HEALTH PLANS.--

258 | (d)1. A qualified beneficiary must give written notice to
 259 | the insurance carrier within 63 ~~30~~ days after the occurrence of
 260 | a qualifying event. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, a
 261 | notice by any qualified beneficiary constitutes notice on behalf
 262 | of all qualified beneficiaries. The written notice must inform
 263 | the insurance carrier of the occurrence and type of the
 264 | qualifying event giving rise to the potential election by a
 265 | qualified beneficiary of continuation of coverage under the
 266 | group health plan issued by that insurance carrier, except that
 267 | in cases where the covered employee has been involuntarily
 268 | discharged, the nature of such discharge need not be disclosed.
 269 | The written notice must, at a minimum, identify the employer,
 270 | the group health plan number, the name and address of all
 271 | qualified beneficiaries, and such other information required by
 272 | the insurance carrier under the terms of the group health plan
 273 | or the commission by rule, to the extent that such information
 274 | is known by the qualified beneficiary.

275 | 2. Within 14 days after the receipt of written notice
 276 | under subparagraph 1., the insurance carrier shall send each
 277 | qualified beneficiary by certified mail an election and premium
 278 | notice form, approved by the office, which form must provide for

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

279 | the qualified beneficiary's election or nonelection of
280 | continuation of coverage under the group health plan and the
281 | applicable premium amount due after the election to continue
282 | coverage. This subparagraph does not require separate mailing of
283 | notices to qualified beneficiaries residing in the same
284 | household, but requires a separate mailing for each separate
285 | household.

286 | (j) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), if a qualified
287 | beneficiary in the military reserve or National Guard has
288 | elected to continue coverage and is thereafter called to active
289 | duty and the coverage under the group plan is terminated by the
290 | beneficiary or the carrier due to the qualified beneficiary
291 | becoming eligible for TRICARE (the health care program provided
292 | by the United States Defense Department), the 18-month period or
293 | such other applicable maximum time period for which the
294 | qualified beneficiary would otherwise be entitled to continue
295 | coverage is tolled during the time that he or she is covered
296 | under the TRICARE program. Within 63 ~~30~~ days after the federal
297 | TRICARE coverage terminates, the qualified beneficiary may elect
298 | to continue coverage under the group health plan, retroactively
299 | to the date coverage terminated under TRICARE, for the remainder
300 | of the 18-month period or such other applicable time period,
301 | subject to termination of coverage at the earliest of the
302 | conditions specified in paragraph (b).

303 | Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (c)
304 | of subsection (5), and paragraphs (b) and (j) of subsection (11)
305 | of section 627.6699, Florida Statutes, are amended, and

ENROLLED
 HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

306 paragraph (o) is added to subsection (11) of that section, to
 307 read:

308 627.6699 Employee Health Care Access Act.--

309 (4) APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE.--

310 (a)1. This section applies to a health benefit plan that
 311 provides coverage to employees of a small employer in this
 312 state, unless the coverage policy is marketed directly to the
 313 individual employee, and the employer does not contribute
 314 directly or indirectly to participate in the collection or
 315 distribution of premiums or facilitate the administration of the
 316 coverage policy in any manner. For the purposes of this
 317 subparagraph, an employer is not deemed to be contributing to
 318 the premiums or facilitating the administration of coverage if
 319 the employer does not contribute to the premium and merely
 320 collects the premiums for coverage from an employee's wages or
 321 salary through payroll deduction and submits payment for the
 322 premiums of one or more employees in a lump sum to a carrier.

323 2. A carrier authorized to issue group or individual
 324 health benefit plans under this chapter or chapter 641 may offer
 325 coverage as described in this paragraph to individual employees
 326 without being subject to this section if the employer has not
 327 had a group health benefit plan in place in the prior 6 months.
 328 A carrier authorized to issue group or individual health benefit
 329 plans under this chapter or chapter 641 may offer coverage as
 330 described in this subparagraph to employees that are not
 331 eligible employees as defined in this section, whether or not
 332 the small employer has a group health benefit plan in place. A
 333 carrier that offers coverage as described in this subparagraph

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

334 must provide a cancellation notice to the primary insured at
335 least 10 days prior to canceling the coverage for nonpayment of
336 premium.

337 (5) AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE.--

338 (c) Every small employer carrier must, as a condition of
339 transacting business in this state:

340 1. Offer and issue all small employer health benefit plans
341 on a guaranteed-issue basis to every eligible small employer,
342 with 2 to 50 eligible employees, that elects to be covered under
343 such plan, agrees to make the required premium payments, and
344 satisfies the other provisions of the plan. A rider for
345 additional or increased benefits may be medically underwritten
346 and may only be added to the standard health benefit plan. The
347 increased rate charged for the additional or increased benefit
348 must be rated in accordance with this section.

349 2. In the absence of enrollment availability in the
350 Florida Health Insurance Plan, offer and issue basic and
351 standard small employer health benefit plans and a high-
352 deductible plan that meets the requirements of a health savings
353 account plan or health reimbursement account as defined by
354 federal law, on a guaranteed-issue basis, during a 31-day open
355 enrollment period of August 1 through August 31 of each year, to
356 every eligible small employer, with fewer than two eligible
357 employees, which small employer is not formed primarily for the
358 purpose of buying health insurance and which elects to be
359 covered under such plan, agrees to make the required premium
360 payments, and satisfies the other provisions of the plan.

361 Coverage provided under this subparagraph shall begin on October

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

362 | 1 of the same year as the date of enrollment, unless the small
 363 | employer carrier and the small employer agree to a different
 364 | date. A rider for additional or increased benefits may be
 365 | medically underwritten and may only be added to the standard
 366 | health benefit plan. The increased rate charged for the
 367 | additional or increased benefit must be rated in accordance with
 368 | this section. For purposes of this subparagraph, a person, his
 369 | or her spouse, and his or her dependent children constitute a
 370 | single eligible employee if that person and spouse are employed
 371 | by the same small employer and either that person or his or her
 372 | spouse has a normal work week of less than 25 hours. Any right
 373 | to an open enrollment of health benefit coverage for groups of
 374 | fewer than two employees, pursuant to this section, shall remain
 375 | in full force and effect in the absence of the availability of
 376 | new enrollment into the Florida Health Insurance Plan.

377 | 3. This paragraph does not limit a carrier's ability to
 378 | offer other health benefit plans to small employers if the
 379 | standard and basic health benefit plans are offered and
 380 | rejected.

381 | (11) SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH REINSURANCE PROGRAM.--

382 | (b)1. The program shall operate subject to the supervision
 383 | and control of the board.

384 | 2. Effective upon this act becoming a law, the board shall
 385 | consist of the director of the office or his or her designee,
 386 | who shall serve as the chairperson, and 13 additional members
 387 | who are representatives of carriers and insurance agents and are
 388 | appointed by the director of the office and serve as follows:

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

389 a. Five members shall be representatives of health
 390 insurers licensed under chapter 624 or chapter 641. Two members
 391 shall be agents who are actively engaged in the sale of health
 392 insurance. Four members shall be employers or representatives of
 393 employers. One member shall be a person covered under an
 394 individual health insurance policy issued by a licensed insurer
 395 in this state. One member shall represent the Agency for Health
 396 Care Administration and shall be recommended by the Secretary of
 397 Health Care Administration. ~~The director of the office shall~~
 398 ~~include representatives of small employer carriers subject to~~
 399 ~~assessment under this subsection. If two or more carriers elect~~
 400 ~~to be risk assuming carriers, the membership must include at~~
 401 ~~least two representatives of risk assuming carriers; if one~~
 402 ~~carrier is risk assuming, one member must be a representative of~~
 403 ~~such carrier. At least one member must be a carrier who is~~
 404 ~~subject to the assessments, but is not a small employer carrier.~~
 405 ~~Subject to such restrictions, at least five members shall be~~
 406 ~~selected from individuals recommended by small employer carriers~~
 407 ~~pursuant to procedures provided by rule of the commission. Three~~
 408 ~~members shall be selected from a list of health insurance~~
 409 ~~carriers that issue individual health insurance policies. At~~
 410 ~~least two of the three members selected must be reinsuring~~
 411 ~~carriers. Two members shall be selected from a list of insurance~~
 412 ~~agents who are actively engaged in the sale of health insurance.~~

413 b. A member appointed under this subparagraph shall serve
 414 a term of 4 years and shall continue in office until the
 415 member's successor takes office, except that, in order to
 416 provide for staggered terms, the director of the office shall

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

417 designate two of the initial appointees under this subparagraph
 418 to serve terms of 2 years and shall designate three of the
 419 initial appointees under this subparagraph to serve terms of 3
 420 years.

421 3. The director of the office may remove a member for
 422 cause.

423 4. Vacancies on the board shall be filled in the same
 424 manner as the original appointment for the unexpired portion of
 425 the term.

426 ~~5. The director of the office may require an entity that~~
 427 ~~recommends persons for appointment to submit additional lists of~~
 428 ~~recommended appointees.~~

429 (j)1. Before July ~~March~~ 1 of each calendar year, the board
 430 shall determine and report to the office the program net loss
 431 for the previous year, including administrative expenses for
 432 that year, and the incurred losses for the year, taking into
 433 account investment income and other appropriate gains and
 434 losses.

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

437 a. The operating losses of the program shall be assessed
 438 in the following order subject to the specified limitations. The
 439 first tier of assessments shall be made against reinsuring
 440 carriers in an amount which shall not exceed 5 percent of each
 441 reinsuring carrier's premiums from health benefit plans covering
 442 small employers. If such assessments have been collected and
 443 additional moneys are needed, the board shall make a second tier
 444 of assessments in an amount which shall not exceed 0.5 percent

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

445 of each carrier's health benefit plan premiums. Except as
446 provided in paragraph (n), risk-assuming carriers are exempt
447 from all assessments authorized pursuant to this section. The
448 amount paid by a reinsuring carrier for the first tier of
449 assessments shall be credited against any additional assessments
450 made.

451 b. The board shall equitably assess carriers for operating
452 losses of the plan based on market share. The board shall
453 annually assess each carrier a portion of the operating losses
454 of the plan. The first tier of assessments shall be determined
455 by multiplying the operating losses by a fraction, the numerator
456 of which equals the reinsuring carrier's earned premium
457 pertaining to direct writings of small employer health benefit
458 plans in the state during the calendar year for which the
459 assessment is levied, and the denominator of which equals the
460 total of all such premiums earned by reinsuring carriers in the
461 state during that calendar year. The second tier of assessments
462 shall be based on the premiums that all carriers, except risk-
463 assuming carriers, earned on all health benefit plans written in
464 this state. The board may levy interim assessments against
465 carriers to ensure the financial ability of the plan to cover
466 claims expenses and administrative expenses paid or estimated to
467 be paid in the operation of the plan for the calendar year prior
468 to the association's anticipated receipt of annual assessments
469 for that calendar year. Any interim assessment is due and
470 payable within 30 days after receipt by a carrier of the interim
471 assessment notice. Interim assessment payments shall be credited
472 against the carrier's annual assessment. Health benefit plan

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

473 premiums and benefits paid by a carrier that are less than an
 474 amount determined by the board to justify the cost of collection
 475 may not be considered for purposes of determining assessments.

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

483 3. Before July ~~March~~ 1 of each year, the board shall
 484 determine and file with the office an estimate of the
 485 assessments needed to fund the losses incurred by the program in
 486 the previous calendar year.

487 4. If the board determines that the assessments needed to
 488 fund the losses incurred by the program in the previous calendar
 489 year will exceed the amount specified in subparagraph 2., the
 490 board shall evaluate the operation of the program and report its
 491 findings, including any recommendations for changes to the plan
 492 of operation, to the office within 180 ~~90~~ days following the end
 493 of the calendar year in which the losses were incurred. The
 494 evaluation shall include an estimate of future assessments, the
 495 administrative costs of the program, the appropriateness of the
 496 premiums charged and the level of carrier retention under the
 497 program, and the costs of coverage for small employers. If the
 498 board fails to file a report with the office within 180 ~~90~~ days
 499 following the end of the applicable calendar year, the office
 500 may evaluate the operations of the program and implement such

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

501 amendments to the plan of operation the office deems necessary
502 to reduce future losses and assessments.

503 5. If assessments exceed the amount of the actual losses
504 and administrative expenses of the program, the excess shall be
505 held as interest and used by the board to offset future losses
506 or to reduce program premiums. As used in this paragraph, the
507 term "future losses" includes reserves for incurred but not
508 reported claims.

509 6. Each carrier's proportion of the assessment shall be
510 determined annually by the board, based on annual statements and
511 other reports considered necessary by the board and filed by the
512 carriers with the board.

513 7. Provision shall be made in the plan of operation for
514 the imposition of an interest penalty for late payment of an
515 assessment.

516 8. A carrier may seek, from the office, a deferment, in
517 whole or in part, from any assessment made by the board. The
518 office may defer, in whole or in part, the assessment of a
519 carrier if, in the opinion of the office, the payment of the
520 assessment would place the carrier in a financially impaired
521 condition. If an assessment against a carrier is deferred, in
522 whole or in part, the amount by which the assessment is deferred
523 may be assessed against the other carriers in a manner
524 consistent with the basis for assessment set forth in this
525 section. The carrier receiving such deferment remains liable to
526 the program for the amount deferred and is prohibited from
527 reinsuring any individuals or groups in the program if it fails
528 to pay assessments.

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

529 (o) The board shall advise the office, the Agency for
 530 Health Care Administration, the department, other executive
 531 departments, and the Legislature on health insurance issues.
 532 Specifically, the board shall:

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

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

539 3. Make recommendations to the office for legislation
 540 addressing health insurance market issues and provide comments
 541 on health insurance legislation proposed by the office.

542 4. Meet at least three times each year. One meeting shall
 543 be held to hear reports and to secure public comment on the
 544 health insurance market, to develop any legislation needed to
 545 address health insurance market issues, and to provide comments
 546 on health insurance legislation proposed by the office.

547 5. Issue a report to the office on the state of the health
 548 insurance market by September 1 each year. The report shall
 549 include recommendations for changes in the health insurance
 550 market, results from implementation of previous recommendations,
 551 and information on health insurance markets.

552 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 641.27, Florida
 553 Statutes, is amended to read:

554 641.27 Examination by the department.--

555 (1) The office shall examine the affairs, transactions,
 556 accounts, business records, and assets of any health maintenance

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

557 organization as often as it deems it expedient for the
558 protection of the people of this state, but not less frequently
559 than once every 5 ~~3~~ years. ~~In lieu of making its own financial~~
560 ~~examination, the office may accept an independent certified~~
561 ~~public accountant's audit report prepared on a statutory~~
562 ~~accounting basis consistent with this part.~~ However, except when
563 the medical records are requested and copies furnished pursuant
564 to s. 456.057, medical records of individuals and records of
565 physicians providing service under contract to the health
566 maintenance organization shall not be subject to audit, although
567 they may be subject to subpoena by court order upon a showing of
568 good cause. For the purpose of examinations, the office may
569 administer oaths to and examine the officers and agents of a
570 health maintenance organization concerning its business and
571 affairs. The examination of each health maintenance organization
572 by the office shall be subject to the same terms and conditions
573 as apply to insurers under chapter 624. In no event shall
574 expenses of all examinations exceed a maximum of \$50,000 ~~\$20,000~~
575 for any 1-year period. Any rehabilitation, liquidation,
576 conservation, or dissolution of a health maintenance
577 organization shall be conducted under the supervision of the
578 department, which shall have all power with respect thereto
579 granted to it under the laws governing the rehabilitation,
580 liquidation, reorganization, conservation, or dissolution of
581 life insurance companies.

582 Section 10. Subsection (40) of section 641.31, Florida
583 Statutes, is amended to read:

584 641.31 Health maintenance contracts.--

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

585 (40) (a) Any group rate, rating schedule, or rating manual
 586 for a health maintenance organization policy, which provides
 587 creditable coverage as defined in s. 627.6561(5), filed with the
 588 office shall provide for an appropriate rebate of premiums paid
 589 in the last policy year, contract year, or calendar year when
 590 the majority of members of a health individual ~~covered by such~~
 591 ~~plan are is~~ enrolled in and maintained ~~maintains~~ participation
 592 in any health wellness, maintenance, or improvement program
 593 offered by the group contract holder ~~approved by the health~~
 594 ~~plan~~. The group individual must provide evidence of
 595 demonstrative maintenance or improvement of his or her health
 596 status as determined by assessments of agreed-upon health status
 597 indicators between the group individual and the health insurer,
 598 including, but not limited to, reduction in weight, body mass
 599 index, and smoking cessation. Any rebate provided by the health
 600 maintenance organization insurer ~~is~~ presumed to be appropriate
 601 unless credible data demonstrates otherwise, or unless the
 602 rebate program requires the insured to incur costs to qualify
 603 for the rebate which equals or exceeds the value of the rebate
 604 but the rebate may shall not exceed 10 percent of paid premiums.

605 (b) The premium rebate authorized by this section shall be
 606 effective for a subscriber ~~an insured~~ on an annual basis, unless
 607 the number of participating members on the contract renewal
 608 anniversary becomes fewer than the majority of the members
 609 eligible for participation in the wellness program individual
 610 ~~fails to maintain or improve his or her health status while~~
 611 ~~participating in an approved wellness program, or credible~~

ENROLLED

HB 811, Engrossed 3

2005 Legislature

612 ~~evidence demonstrates that the individual is not participating~~
613 ~~in the approved wellness program.~~

614 (c) A health maintenance organization that issues
615 individual contracts may offer a premium rebate, as provided
616 under this section, for a healthy lifestyle program.

617 Section 11. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
618 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
619 becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2005, and
620 shall apply to all policies or contracts issued or renewed on or
621 after July 1, 2005.

622