A bill to be entitled

An act relating to consumer protection from nonmedical changes to prescription drug formularies; creating s. 627.42393, F.S.; prohibiting specified changes to certain insurance policy prescription drug formularies, except under certain circumstances; providing construction and applicability; amending s. 627.6699, F.S.; requiring small employer carriers to limit specified changes to prescription drug formularies under certain health benefit plans; amending s. 641.31, F.S.; prohibiting certain health maintenance organizations from making specified changes to health maintenance contract prescription drug formularies, except under certain circumstances; providing construction and applicability; providing a declaration of important state interest; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 627.42393, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

627.42393 Insurance policies; limiting changes to prescription drug formularies.—

(1) Other than at the time of coverage renewal, an

individual or group insurance policy that is delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended, or continued in this state and that provides medical, major medical, or similar comprehensive coverage may not, while the insured is taking a prescription drug:

(a) Remove the prescription drug from its list of covered drugs during the policy year unless the United States Food and Drug Administration has issued a statement about the drug which calls into question the clinical safety of the drug, or the manufacturer of the drug has notified the United States Food and Drug Administration of a manufacturing discontinuance or potential discontinuance of the drug as required by s. 506C of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. s. 356c.

(b) Reclassify the drug to a more restrictive drug tier or increase the amount that an insured must pay for a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible for prescription drug benefits, or reclassify the drug to a higher cost-sharing tier during the policy year.

This subsection applies to drugs for which an insurer negotiates a single acquisition price which will be in effect for the entire plan year.

(2) This section does not:

(a) Prohibit the addition of prescription drugs to the list of drugs covered under the policy during the policy year.

(b) Apply to a grandfathered health plan as defined in s. 627.402 or to benefits set forth in s. 627.6513(1)-(14).

(c) Alter or amend s. 465.025, which provides conditions under which a pharmacist may substitute a generically equivalent drug product for a brand name drug product.

(d) Alter or amend s. 465.0252, which provides conditions under which a pharmacist may dispense a substitute biological product for the prescribed biological product.

(e) Apply to a Medicaid managed care plan under part IV of chapter 409.

Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (5) of section 627.6699, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.6699 Employee Health Care Access Act.—

(5) AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE.—

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

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

2. Any requirement used by a small employer carrier in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer group, including requirements for minimum participation of eligible employees and minimum employer contributions, must be

applied uniformly among all small employer groups having the same number of eligible employees applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the small employer carrier, except that a small employer carrier that participates in, administers, or issues health benefits pursuant to s. 381.0406 which do not include a preexisting condition exclusion may require as a condition of offering such benefits that the employer has had no health insurance coverage for its employees for a period of at least 6 months. A small employer carrier may vary application of minimum participation requirements and minimum employer contribution requirements only by the size of the small employer group.

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

4. A small employer carrier shall not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been

accepted for coverage, unless the employer size has changed, in which case the small employer carrier may apply the requirements that are applicable to the new group size.

5. If a small employer carrier offers coverage to a small employer, it must offer coverage to all the small employer's eligible employees and their dependents. A small employer carrier may not offer coverage limited to certain persons in a group or to part of a group, except with respect to late enrollees.

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

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

8. A small employer carrier must limit changes to prescription drug formularies as required by s. 627.42393.

Section 3. Subsection (36) of section 641.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

641.31 Health maintenance contracts.—

(36) A health maintenance organization may increase the copayment for any benefit, or delete, amend, or limit any of the benefits to which a subscriber is entitled under the group contract only, upon written notice to the contract holder at least 45 days in advance of the time of coverage renewal. The health maintenance organization may amend the contract with the contract holder, with such amendment to be effective immediately at the time of coverage renewal. The written notice to the contract holder must ~~shall~~ specifically identify any deletions, amendments, or limitations to any of the benefits provided in the group contract during the current contract period which will be included in the group contract upon renewal. This subsection does not apply to any increases in benefits. The 45-day notice requirement does ~~shall~~ not apply if benefits are amended, deleted, or limited at the request of the contract holder.

(a) Other than at the time of coverage renewal, a health maintenance contract that provides medical, major medical, or similar comprehensive coverage may not, while the subscriber is taking a prescription drug:

1. Remove the prescription drug from its list of covered drugs during the contract year unless the United States Food and Drug Administration has issued a statement about the drug which calls into question the clinical safety of the drug, or the manufacturer of the drug has notified the United States Food and Drug Administration of a manufacturing discontinuance or

potential discontinuance of the drug as required by s. 506C of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. s. 356c.

2. Reclassify the drug to a more restrictive drug tier or increase the amount that an insured must pay for a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible for prescription drug benefits, or reclassify the drug to a higher cost-sharing tier during the contract year.

This paragraph applies to drugs for which a health maintenance organization negotiates a single acquisition price which will be in effect for the entire plan year.

(b) This subsection does not:

1. Prohibit the addition of prescription drugs to the list of drugs covered during the contract year.

2. Apply to a grandfathered health plan as defined in s. 627.402 or to benefits set forth in s. 627.6513(1)-(14).

3. Alter or amend s. 465.025, which provides conditions under which a pharmacist may substitute a generically equivalent drug product for a brand name drug product.

4. Alter or amend s. 465.0252, which provides conditions under which a pharmacist may dispense a substitute biological product for the prescribed biological product.

5. Apply to a Medicaid managed care plan under part IV of chapter 409.

Section 4. The Legislature finds that this act fulfills an

important state interest.

Section 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2020.