

513B.5 Provisions on renewability of coverage.

1. Health insurance coverage subject to this chapter is renewable with respect to all eligible employees or their dependents, at the option of the small employer, except for one or more of the following reasons:

a. The health insurance coverage sponsor fails to pay, or to make timely payment of, premiums or contributions pursuant to the terms of the health insurance coverage.

b. The health insurance coverage sponsor performs an act or practice constituting fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact under the terms of the coverage.

c. Noncompliance with the carrier's or organized delivery system's minimum participation requirements.

d. Noncompliance with the carrier's or organized delivery system's employer contribution requirements.

e. A decision by the carrier or organized delivery system to discontinue offering a particular type of health insurance coverage in the state's small employer market. Health insurance coverage may be discontinued by the carrier or organized delivery system in that market only if the carrier or organized delivery system does all of the following:

(1) Provides advance notice of its decision to discontinue such plan to the commissioner or director of public health. Notice to the commissioner or director, at a minimum, shall be no less than three days prior to the notice provided for in subparagraph (2) to affected small employers, participants, and beneficiaries.

(2) Provides notice of its decision not to renew such plan to all affected small employers, participants, and beneficiaries no less than ninety days prior to the nonrenewal of the plan.

(3) Offers to each plan sponsor of the discontinued coverage, the option to purchase any other coverage currently offered by the carrier or organized delivery system to other employers in this state.

(4) Acts uniformly, in opting to discontinue the coverage and in offering the option under subparagraph (3), without regard to the claims experience of the sponsors under the discontinued coverage or to a health status-related factor relating to any participants or beneficiaries covered or new participants or beneficiaries who may become eligible for the coverage.

f. A decision by the carrier or organized delivery system to discontinue offering and to cease to renew all of its health insurance coverage delivered or issued for delivery to small employers in this state. A carrier or organized delivery system making such decision shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide advance notice of its decision to discontinue such coverage to the commissioner or director of public health. Notice to the commissioner or director, at a minimum, shall be no less than three days prior to the notice provided for in subparagraph (2) to affected small employers, participants, and beneficiaries.

(2) Provide notice of its decision not to renew such coverage to all affected small employers, participants, and beneficiaries no less than one hundred eighty days prior to the nonrenewal of the coverage.

(3) Discontinue all health insurance coverage issued or delivered for issuance to small employers in this state and cease renewal of such coverage.

g. The membership of an employer in an association, which is the basis for the coverage which is provided through such association, ceases, but only if the termination of coverage under this paragraph occurs uniformly without regard to any health status-related factor relating to any covered individual.

h. The commissioner or director of public health finds that the continuation of the coverage is not in the best interests of the policyholders or certificate holders, or would impair the carrier's or organized delivery system's ability to meet its contractual obligations.

i. At the time of coverage renewal, a carrier or organized delivery system may modify the health insurance coverage for a product offered under group health insurance coverage in the small group market, for coverage that is available in such market other than only through one or more bona fide associations, if such modification is consistent with the laws of this state, and is effective on a uniform basis among group health insurance coverage with that product.

2. A carrier or organized delivery system that elects not to renew health insurance coverage under subsection 1, paragraph “f”, shall not write any new business in the small employer market in this state for a period of five years after the date of notice to the commissioner or director of public health.

3. This section, with respect to a carrier or organized delivery system doing business in one established geographic service area of the state, applies only to such carrier’s or organized delivery system’s operations in that service area.

91 Acts, ch 244, §5; 92 Acts, ch 1167, §8, 9; 93 Acts, ch 80, §6; 97 Acts, ch 103, §19