

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2656

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WILSON AND KESSINGER

[Introduced January 24, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Banking and Insurance then the
Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §33-15D-1, §33-15D-2, §33-15D-3, §33-15D-4, §33-15D-5, and §33-15D-6,
 3 all relating to creating the Health Care Choice Act; stating legislative findings and purpose;
 4 authorizing insurers from other states to engage in the business of health insurance in
 5 West Virginia only with the written approval of the Insurance Commissioner and subject
 6 to qualifications and other requirements determined by the Insurance Commissioner.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 15D. HEALTH CARE CHOICE ACT.

§33-15D-1. Legislative findings and purpose.

1 (a) The Legislature recognizes the need for purchasers of health insurance coverage in
 2 this state to have the opportunity to choose health insurance plans that are more affordable and
 3 flexible than existing market policies offering accident and health coverage. Therefore, the
 4 Legislature seeks to increase the availability of health insurance coverage by allowing insurers
 5 authorized to engage in the business of insurance in other states, and not so authorized in West
 6 Virginia, to issue accident and health policies in West Virginia by granting a limited exemption to
 7 provisions of this chapter. Insurers authorized to engage in the business of insurance in other
 8 states, and not so authorized in West Virginia, shall be subject to the requirements set out in this
 9 article in order to be able to obtain an exemption to provisions of this chapter and to issue accident
 10 and health policies in West Virginia through agents licensed in the state.

11 (b) This article shall be known as and may be cited as the "Health Care Choice Act".

§33-15D-2. Out of state Insurer required to have approval of Insurance Commissioner.

1 (a) An insurer authorized to engage in the business of insurance in other states that is not
 2 so licensed in West Virginia may not issue an accident or a health policy pursuant to this section
 3 unless it is approved to do so, in writing, by the Insurance Commissioner.

4 (b) An insurer seeking to obtain the written approval described in subsection (a) of this
 5 section shall request approval in the manner required by the Insurance Commissioner, and shall

6 pay all fees associated with the application as may be required by the Insurance Commissioner.

7 (c) In order to first be considered for the written approval from the Insurance
8 Commissioner, an insurer shall be domiciled in a state which has a legislatively approved compact
9 with the State of West Virginia.

10 (d) All approved insurers domiciled in a compacting state selling health and accident
11 insurance policies in West Virginia shall:

12 (1) Offer accident and health insurance policies that contain all mandated health benefits
13 that are required by West Virginia law to be included in accident or health insurance policies and
14 Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) policies issued in the state and shall comply with all
15 other applicable laws pertaining to coverage and coverage decisions;

16 (2) Keep a full and true record of each insurance policy issued to an insured in this state
17 by or on behalf of the insurer, containing such information as may be required by the Insurance
18 Commissioner, which record may be examined at any time within three years after issuance by
19 the Insurance Commissioner;

20 (3) File with the Insurance Commissioner, on or before April 1 of each year, a verified
21 statement of all insurance transacted by the insurer during the preceding calendar year in West
22 Virginia. The statement shall be on a form prescribed and furnished by the Insurance
23 Commissioner and contain such information as required by the Insurance Commissioner;

24 (4) Issue an insurance policy in this state pursuant to this section through an insurance
25 agent or other person or entity that is licensed in this state, as well as in a state in which the
26 insurer is licensed, to engage in the sale, solicitation or negotiation of accident and/or health
27 insurance in this state, and that is appointed by the insurer for that purpose;

28 (5) Appoint one or more third-party administrators that are licensed in this state, and that
29 have licensed adjusters in this state, that shall be responsible for administering claims under the
30 insurance policies issued by the insurer in this state and be available to answer any questions
31 from insureds under the insurance policies issued by the insurer in this state; and

32 (6) Submit to the jurisdiction of this state and be subject to service of legal process within
33 this state in any action or proceeding against the insurer arising out of any insurance policy issued
34 to an insured policyholder in this state and the Insurance Commissioner is appointed as its
35 exclusive agent to receive service of legal process.

§33-15D-3. Procedure and requirements for issuance of accident and health insurance policies.

1 The Insurance Commissioner may only grant the written approval described in section two
2 of this article to an insurer that:

3 (1) Is properly licensed and has met the requirements for solvency in its domiciliary state
4 to issue accident and health insurance policies;

5 (2) Has met the requirements for market conduct applicable to insurers domiciled in West
6 Virginia authorized to issue accident and health insurance policies in the state set forth in chapter
7 33 of this code; and

8 (3) Has submitted the policy form that it will issue to insureds in this state for a
9 determination by the Insurance Commissioner that the policy form is in compliance with all laws,
10 rules and regulations in this state applicable to health insurance policies.

§33-15D-4. Authority and duties of Insurance Commissioner and domiciliary state.

1 (a) The Insurance Commissioner shall obtain verification in writing by the regulating
2 authority of the domiciliary state, certifying that the insurer has met the financial solvency
3 requirements of the insurer's domiciliary state. An insurer domiciled in a compacting state may
4 not be approved to sell health and accident insurance policies in West Virginia without this
5 verification.

6 (b) The commissioner may require an insurer to reapply for the written approval require
7 by this article on an annual basis, or as often as the commissioner considers prudent.
8 Reapplication shall be in the form and manner required by the Insurance Commissioner.

9 (c) The commissioner may, as a condition to providing an insurer with the written approval

10 described in this article, impose on the insurer any additional requirement that the commissioner
11 considers necessary.

12 (d) The commissioner may negotiate one or more compacts with other states to allow
13 insurers domiciled in such compacting state that obtain the written approval from the
14 commissioner to sell policies of accident and health insurance in this state. These compacts shall
15 provide for appropriate protection of West Virginia consumers by requiring the commissioner to
16 regulate the compliance to West Virginia laws, rules and regulations, and market conduct of the
17 insurers pursuant to compact provisions. The terms of any such compact are presumed to be a
18 valid exercise of the discretionary authority of the commissioner. The compact shall be required
19 to be approved by the Legislature and shall be limited to such provisions as may be necessary
20 for approval of a compact.

21 (e) The commissioner may require every approved insurer to submit to a market conduct
22 examination. Any examination by the commissioner of the regulatory compliance or market
23 conduct of any insurer domiciled in a compacting state seeking to offer health benefit plans in this
24 state, or who has been given approval to offer health benefit plans in this state, shall be conducted
25 in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions as examinations of companies
26 located in this state.

27 (f) An insurer domiciled in a compacting state is required to provide West Virginia state-
28 mandated health benefits and to comply with all other applicable laws that apply to West Virginia
29 accident and health insurers including coverage of services and coverage decisions.

30 (g) All approved insurers domiciled in a compacting state selling health and accident
31 insurance policies in West Virginia must comply with all of the laws, rules and statutes of West
32 Virginia relating to health and accident insurance policies.

§33-15D-5. Policy requirement issued by compacting state.

1 (a) Each written application for purchase of a policy offered by an insurer domiciled in a
2 compacting state pursuant to this article shall contain the following language in boldface type at

3 the beginning of the document:

4 (1) This policy may be subject, in part, to the laws of (insert state where the master policy
5 is filed); in particular, all of the premium rating laws applicable to policies filed in West Virginia do
6 not apply to this policy. This may result in increases in your premium at renewal that would not be
7 permissible in a policy that was issued by a West Virginia domestic insurer. For information
8 concerning health insurance coverage under a policy issued by a West Virginia insurer, please
9 consult your insurance agent or the Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia.

10 (2) Each policy issued pursuant to this article by an insurer domiciled in a compacting
11 state shall contain the following language in boldface type at the beginning of the document:

12 The benefits provided under this policy may be affected, in part, by the laws of a state
13 other than West Virginia; however, they must include the West Virginia state-mandated benefits,
14 including coverage of services, and coverage decisions, and must comply with all other applicable
15 West Virginia and federal laws. Please consult with your insurance agent to determine which
16 health benefits are included or excluded under this policy.

17 (b) Approved insurers domiciled in a compacting state selling health and accident
18 insurance policies in West Virginia are subject to payment of any applicable premium taxes
19 pursuant to this code.

20 (c) Approved insurers domiciled in a compacting state selling health and accident
21 insurance policies in West Virginia shall participate on a nondiscriminatory basis.

22 (d) Approved insurers domiciled in a compacting state selling health and accident
23 insurance policies in West Virginia shall participate on a nondiscriminatory basis and in the same
24 manner as admitted participating insurers in any existing or future Health Insurance High Risk
25 Pool created by or for the State of West Virginia.

§33-15D-6. Insurance Commissioner to propose rules.

1 The Insurance Commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance
2 with §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code necessary for the administration and implementation of the

- 3 Health Care Choice Act, which rules shall specify how the requirements set forth in this article
- 4 shall be implemented.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Health Care Choice Act authorizing insurers from other states to engage in the business of health insurance in West Virginia with the written approval of the Insurance Commissioner and subject to qualifications and other requirements determined by the Insurance Commissioner.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.