

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 493

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain protected disclosures by pharmacists and pharmacies regarding amounts charged for prescription drugs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Subchapter R to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER R. PROTECTED PRACTICES REGARDING PRESCRIPTION DRUG CHARGES

Sec. 1369.801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Enrollee" means an individual who is covered under a health benefit plan, including a covered dependent.

(2) "Prescription drug" has the meaning assigned by Section 551.003, Occupations Code.

Sec. 1369.802. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. (a) This subchapter applies only to a health benefit plan that provides benefits for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of a health condition, accident, or sickness, including an individual, group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy or insurance agreement, a group hospital service contract, or an individual or group evidence of coverage or similar coverage document that is issued by:

(1) an insurance company;

(2) a group hospital service corporation operating under Chapter 842;

1 (3) a health maintenance organization operating under
2 Chapter 843;

3 (4) an approved nonprofit health corporation that
4 holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 844;

5 (5) a multiple employer welfare arrangement that holds
6 a certificate of authority under Chapter 846;

7 (6) a stipulated premium company operating under
8 Chapter 884;

9 (7) a fraternal benefit society operating under
10 Chapter 885;

11 (8) a Lloyd's plan operating under Chapter 941; or

12 (9) an exchange operating under Chapter 942.

13 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, this subchapter applies
14 to:

15 (1) a small employer health benefit plan subject to
16 Chapter 1501, including coverage provided through a health group
17 cooperative under Subchapter B of that chapter;

18 (2) a standard health benefit plan issued under
19 Chapter 1507;

20 (3) a basic coverage plan under Chapter 1551;

21 (4) a basic plan under Chapter 1575;

22 (5) a primary care coverage plan under Chapter 1579;

23 (6) a plan providing basic coverage under Chapter
24 1601;

25 (7) health benefits provided by or through a church
26 benefits board under Subchapter I, Chapter 22, Business
27 Organizations Code;

1 (8) group health coverage made available by a school
2 district in accordance with Section 22.004, Education Code;

3 (9) the state Medicaid program, including the Medicaid
4 managed care program operated under Chapter 540, Government Code;

5 (10) the child health plan program under Chapter 62,
6 Health and Safety Code;

7 (11) a regional or local health care program operated
8 under Section 75.104, Health and Safety Code;

9 (12) a self-funded health benefit plan sponsored by a
10 professional employer organization under Chapter 91, Labor Code;

11 (13) county employee group health benefits provided
12 under Chapter 157, Local Government Code; and

13 (14) health and accident coverage provided by a risk
14 pool created under Chapter 172, Local Government Code.

15 (c) This subchapter applies to coverage under a group health
16 benefit plan provided to a resident of this state regardless of
17 whether the group policy, agreement, or contract is delivered,
18 issued for delivery, or renewed in this state.

19 Sec. 1369.803. PROTECTED DISCLOSURE BY PHARMACISTS AND
20 PHARMACIES. An issuer of a health benefit plan that provides
21 prescription drug benefits or a pharmacy benefit manager that
22 administers pharmacy benefits may not, by contract or otherwise,
23 prohibit or restrict a pharmacist or pharmacy from informing an
24 enrollee of any difference between the enrollee's out-of-pocket
25 cost for a prescription drug under the enrollee's health benefit
26 plan and the out-of-pocket cost without submitting a claim under
27 the enrollee's health benefit plan.

1 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
2 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
3 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
4 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
5 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
6 waiver or authorization is granted.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.