SHB 1870 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Health & Long Term Care

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/27/19

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"PART I**
4 **DEFINITIONS**

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.43.005 and 2016 c 65 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:
7 Unless otherwise specifically provided, the definitions in this
8 section apply throughout this chapter.
9 (1) "Adjusted community rate" means the rating method used to
10 establish the premium for health plans adjusted to reflect
11 actuarially demonstrated differences in utilization or cost
12 attributable to geographic region, age, family size, and use of
13 wellness activities.
14 (2) "Adverse benefit determination" means a denial, reduction, or
15 termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment, in whole or
16 in part, for a benefit, including a denial, reduction, termination,
17 or failure to provide or make payment that is based on a
18 determination of an enrollee's or applicant's eligibility to
19 participate in a plan, and including, with respect to group health
20 plans, a denial, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to
21 provide or make payment, in whole or in part, for a benefit resulting
22 from the application of any utilization review, as well as a failure
23 to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided
24 because it is determined to be experimental or investigational or not
25 medically necessary or appropriate.
26 (3) "Applicant" means a person who applies for enrollment in an
27 individual health plan as the subscriber or an enrollee, or the
28 dependent or spouse of a subscriber or enrollee.
29 (4) "Basic health plan" means the plan described under chapter
30 70.47 RCW, as revised from time to time.

(5) "Basic health plan model plan" means a health plan as required in RCW 70.47.060(2)(e).

(6) "Basic health plan services" means that schedule of covered health services, including the description of how those benefits are to be administered, that are required to be delivered to an enrollee under the basic health plan, as revised from time to time.

(7) "Board" means the governing board of the Washington health benefit exchange established in chapter 43.71 RCW.

(8)(a) For grandfathered health benefit plans issued before January 1, 2014, and renewed thereafter, "catastrophic health plan" means:

(i) In the case of a contract, agreement, or policy covering a single enrollee, a health benefit plan requiring a calendar year deductible of, at a minimum, one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars and an annual out-of-pocket expense required to be paid under the plan (other than for premiums) for covered benefits of at least three thousand five hundred dollars, both amounts to be adjusted annually by the insurance commissioner; and

(ii) In the case of a contract, agreement, or policy covering more than one enrollee, a health benefit plan requiring a calendar year deductible of, at a minimum, three thousand five hundred dollars and an annual out-of-pocket expense required to be paid under the plan (other than for premiums) for covered benefits of at least six thousand dollars, both amounts to be adjusted annually by the insurance commissioner.

(b) In July 2008, and in each July thereafter, the insurance commissioner shall adjust the minimum deductible and out-of-pocket expense required for a plan to qualify as a catastrophic plan to reflect the percentage change in the consumer price index for medical care for a preceding twelve months, as determined by the United States department of labor. For a plan year beginning in 2014, the out-of-pocket limits must be adjusted as specified in section 1302(c)(1) of P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended. The adjusted amount shall apply on the following January 1st.

(c) For health benefit plans issued on or after January 1, 2014, "catastrophic health plan" means:

(i) A health benefit plan that meets the definition of catastrophic plan set forth in section 1302(e) of P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended; or

(ii) A health benefit plan offered outside the exchange marketplace that requires a calendar year deductible or out-of-pocket expenses under the plan, other than for premiums, for covered benefits, that meets or exceeds the commissioner's annual adjustment under (b) of this subsection.

(9) "Certification" means a determination by a review organization that an admission, extension of stay, or other health care service or procedure has been reviewed and, based on the information provided, meets the clinical requirements for medical necessity, appropriateness, level of care, or effectiveness under the auspices of the applicable health benefit plan.

(10) "Concurrent review" means utilization review conducted during a patient's hospital stay or course of treatment.

(11) "Covered person" or "enrollee" means a person covered by a health plan including an enrollee, subscriber, policyholder, beneficiary of a group plan, or individual covered by any other health plan.

(12) "Dependent" means, at a minimum, the enrollee's legal spouse and dependent children who qualify for coverage under the enrollee's health benefit plan.

(13) "Emergency medical condition" means a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in a condition (a) placing the health of the individual, or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy, (b) serious impairment to bodily functions, or (c) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

(14) "Emergency services" means a medical screening examination, as required under section 1867 of the social security act (42 U.S.C. 1395dd), that is within the capability of the emergency department of a hospital, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate that emergency medical condition, and further medical examination and treatment, to the extent they are within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the hospital, as are required under section 1867 of the social security act (42 U.S.C. 1395dd) to stabilize the patient. Stabilize, with respect to an emergency medical condition, has the meaning given in

section 1867(e)(3) of the social security act (42 U.S.C. 1395dd(e)(3)).

(15) "Employee" has the same meaning given to the term, as of January 1, 2008, under section 3(6) of the federal employee retirement income security act of 1974.

(16) "Enrollee point-of-service cost-sharing" means amounts paid to health carriers directly providing services, health care providers, or health care facilities by enrollees and may include copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

(17) "Exchange" means the Washington health benefit exchange established under chapter 43.71 RCW.

(18) "Final external review decision" means a determination by an independent review organization at the conclusion of an external review.

(19) "Final internal adverse benefit determination" means an adverse benefit determination that has been upheld by a health plan or carrier at the completion of the internal appeals process, or an adverse benefit determination with respect to which the internal appeals process has been exhausted under the exhaustion rules described in RCW 48.43.530 and 48.43.535.

(20) "Grandfathered health plan" means a group health plan or an individual health plan that under section 1251 of the patient protection and affordable care act, P.L. 111-148 (2010) and as amended by the health care and education reconciliation act, P.L. 111-152 (2010) is not subject to subtitles A or C of the act as amended.

(21) "Grievance" means a written complaint submitted by or on behalf of a covered person regarding service delivery issues other than denial of payment for medical services or nonprovision of medical services, including dissatisfaction with medical care, waiting time for medical services, provider or staff attitude or demeanor, or dissatisfaction with service provided by the health carrier.

(22) "Health care facility" or "facility" means hospices licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, rural health care facilities as defined in RCW 70.175.020, psychiatric hospitals licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW, nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, community mental health centers licensed under chapter 71.05 or 71.24 RCW, kidney disease treatment centers licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, ambulatory diagnostic,

1 treatment, or surgical facilities licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW,
2 drug and alcohol treatment facilities licensed under chapter 70.96A
3 RCW, and home health agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, and
4 includes such facilities if owned and operated by a political
5 subdivision or instrumentality of the state and such other facilities
6 as required by federal law and implementing regulations.

7 (23) "Health care provider" or "provider" means:

8 (a) A person regulated under Title 18 or chapter 70.127 RCW, to
9 practice health or health-related services or otherwise practicing
10 health care services in this state consistent with state law; or

11 (b) An employee or agent of a person described in (a) of this
12 subsection, acting in the course and scope of his or her employment.

13 (24) "Health care service" means that service offered or provided
14 by health care facilities and health care providers relating to the
15 prevention, cure, or treatment of illness, injury, or disease.

16 (25) "Health carrier" or "carrier" means a disability insurer
17 regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, a health care service
18 contractor as defined in RCW 48.44.010, or a health maintenance
19 organization as defined in RCW 48.46.020, and includes "issuers" as
20 that term is used in the patient protection and affordable care act
21 (P.L. 111-148).

22 (26) "Health plan" or "health benefit plan" means any policy,
23 contract, or agreement offered by a health carrier to provide,
24 arrange, reimburse, or pay for health care services except the
25 following:

26 (a) Long-term care insurance governed by chapter 48.84 or 48.83
27 RCW;

28 (b) Medicare supplemental health insurance governed by chapter
29 48.66 RCW;

30 (c) Coverage supplemental to the coverage provided under chapter
31 55, Title 10, United States Code;

32 (d) Limited health care services offered by limited health care
33 service contractors in accordance with RCW 48.44.035;

34 (e) Disability income;

35 (f) Coverage incidental to a property/casualty liability
36 insurance policy such as automobile personal injury protection
37 coverage and homeowner guest medical;

38 (g) Workers' compensation coverage;

39 (h) Accident only coverage;

1 (i) Specified disease or illness-triggered fixed payment
2 insurance, hospital confinement fixed payment insurance, or other
3 fixed payment insurance offered as an independent, noncoordinated
4 benefit;
5 (j) Employer-sponsored self-funded health plans;
6 (k) Dental only and vision only coverage;
7 (l) Plans deemed by the insurance commissioner to have a short-
8 term limited purpose or duration, or to be a student-only plan that
9 is guaranteed renewable while the covered person is enrolled as a
10 regular full-time undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited
11 higher education institution, after a written request for such
12 classification by the carrier and subsequent written approval by the
13 insurance commissioner; and
14 (m) Civilian health and medical program for the veterans affairs
15 administration (CHAMPVA).
16 (27) "Individual market" means the market for health insurance
17 coverage offered to individuals other than in connection with a group
18 health plan.
19 (28) "Material modification" means a change in the actuarial
20 value of the health plan as modified of more than five percent but
21 less than fifteen percent.
22 (29) "Open enrollment" means a period of time as defined in rule
23 to be held at the same time each year, during which applicants may
24 enroll in a carrier's individual health benefit plan without being
25 subject to health screening or otherwise required to provide evidence
26 of insurability as a condition for enrollment.
27 (30) "Preexisting condition" means any medical condition,
28 illness, or injury that existed any time prior to the effective date
29 of coverage.
30 (31) "Premium" means all sums charged, received, or deposited by
31 a health carrier as consideration for a health plan or the
32 continuance of a health plan. Any assessment or any "membership,"
33 "policy," "contract," "service," or similar fee or charge made by a
34 health carrier in consideration for a health plan is deemed part of
35 the premium. "Premium" shall not include amounts paid as enrollee
36 point-of-service cost-sharing.
37 (32) "Review organization" means a disability insurer regulated
38 under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, health care service contractor as
39 defined in RCW 48.44.010, or health maintenance organization as
40 defined in RCW 48.46.020, and entities affiliated with, under

contract with, or acting on behalf of a health carrier to perform a utilization review.

(33) "Small employer" or "small group" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, political subdivision, sole proprietor, or self-employed individual that is actively engaged in business that employed an average of at least one but no more than fifty employees, during the previous calendar year and employed at least one employee on the first day of the plan year, is not formed primarily for purposes of buying health insurance, and in which a bona fide employer-employee relationship exists. In determining the number of employees, companies that are affiliated companies, or that are eligible to file a combined tax return for purposes of taxation by this state, shall be considered an employer. Subsequent to the issuance of a health plan to a small employer and for the purpose of determining eligibility, the size of a small employer shall be determined annually. Except as otherwise specifically provided, a small employer shall continue to be considered a small employer until the plan anniversary following the date the small employer no longer meets the requirements of this definition. A self-employed individual or sole proprietor who is covered as a group of one must also: (a) Have been employed by the same small employer or small group for at least twelve months prior to application for small group coverage, and (b) verify that he or she derived at least seventy-five percent of his or her income from a trade or business through which the individual or sole proprietor has attempted to earn taxable income and for which he or she has filed the appropriate internal revenue service form 1040, schedule C or F, for the previous taxable year, except a self-employed individual or sole proprietor in an agricultural trade or business, must have derived at least fifty-one percent of his or her income from the trade or business through which the individual or sole proprietor has attempted to earn taxable income and for which he or she has filed the appropriate internal revenue service form 1040, for the previous taxable year.

(34) "Special enrollment" means a defined period of time of not less than thirty-one days, triggered by a specific qualifying event experienced by the applicant, during which applicants may enroll in the carrier's individual health benefit plan without being subject to health screening or otherwise required to provide evidence of insurability as a condition for enrollment.

(35) "Standard health questionnaire" means the standard health questionnaire designated under chapter 48.41 RCW.

(36) "Utilization review" means the prospective, concurrent, or retrospective assessment of the necessity and appropriateness of the allocation of health care resources and services of a provider or facility, given or proposed to be given to an enrollee or group of enrollees.

(37) "Wellness activity" means an explicit program of an activity consistent with department of health guidelines, such as, smoking cessation, injury and accident prevention, reduction of alcohol misuse, appropriate weight reduction, exercise, automobile and motorcycle safety, blood cholesterol reduction, and nutrition education for the purpose of improving enrollee health status and reducing health service costs.

(38) "Essential health benefit categories" means:

(a) Ambulatory patient services;

(b) Emergency services;

(c) Hospitalization;

(d) Maternity and newborn care;

(e) Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment;

(f) Prescription drugs;

(g) Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices;

(h) Laboratory services;

(i) Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management; and

(j) Pediatric services, including oral and vision care.

PART II
GUARANTEED ISSUE AND ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 2. RCW 48.43.012 and 2011 c 315 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) No carrier may reject an individual for an individual or group health benefit plan based upon preexisting conditions of the individual ((~~except as provided in RCW 48.43.018~~)).

(2) No carrier may deny, exclude, or otherwise limit coverage for an individual's preexisting health conditions ((~~except as provided in this section~~)) including, but not limited to, preexisting condition exclusions or waiting periods.

(3) ((~~For an individual health benefit plan originally issued on or after March 23, 2000, preexisting condition waiting periods imposed upon a person enrolling in an individual health benefit plan shall be no more than nine months for a preexisting condition for which medical advice was given, for which a health care provider recommended or provided treatment, or for which a prudent layperson would have sought advice or treatment, within six months prior to the effective date of the plan. No carrier may impose a preexisting condition waiting period on an individual health benefit plan issued to an eligible individual as defined in section 2741(b) of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 300gg-41(b)).~~

~~(4) Individual health benefit plan preexisting condition waiting periods shall not apply to prenatal care services.~~

~~(5)~~)) No carrier may avoid the requirements of this section through the creation of a new rate classification or the modification of an existing rate classification. A new or changed rate classification will be deemed an attempt to avoid the provisions of this section if the new or changed classification would substantially discourage applications for coverage from individuals who are higher than average health risks. These provisions apply only to individuals who are Washington residents.

((~~(6) For any person under age nineteen applying for coverage as allowed by RCW 48.43.0122(1) or enrolled in a health benefit plan subject to sections 1201 and 10103 of the patient protection and affordable care act (P.L. 111-148) that is not a grandfathered health plan in the individual market, a carrier must not impose a preexisting condition exclusion or waiting period or other limitations on benefits or enrollment due to a preexisting condition.~~))

(4) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing the patient protection and affordable care act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A health carrier or health plan may not establish rules for eligibility, including continued eligibility, of any individual to enroll under the terms of the plan or coverage based on any of the

following health status-related factors in relation to the individual or a dependent of the individual:

(a) Health status;

(b) Medical condition, including both physical and mental illnesses;

(c) Claims experience;

(d) Receipt of health care;

(e) Medical history;

(f) Genetic information;

(g) Evidence of insurability, including conditions arising out of acts of domestic violence;

(h) Disability; or

(i) Any other health status-related factor determined appropriate by the commissioner.

(2) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing the patient protection and affordable care act.

Sec. 4. RCW 48.21.270 and 2011 c 314 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) An insurer shall not require proof of insurability as a condition for issuance of the conversion policy.

(2) A conversion policy may not contain an exclusion for preexisting conditions for any applicant ((~~who is under age nineteen. For policies issued to those age nineteen and older, an exclusion for a preexisting condition is permitted only to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the group policy~~)).

(3) An insurer must offer at least three policy benefit plans that comply with the following:

(a) A major medical plan with a five thousand dollar deductible per person;

(b) A comprehensive medical plan with a five hundred dollar deductible per person; and

(c) A basic medical plan with a one thousand dollar deductible per person.

(4) The insurance commissioner may revise the deductible amounts in subsection (3) of this section from time to time to reflect changing health care costs.

(5) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum benefit standards for conversion policies.

(6) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for conversion policy provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

(a) Terms of renewability;

(b) Nonduplication of coverage;

(c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions; and

(d) Definitions of terms.

Sec. 5. RCW 48.44.380 and 2011 c 314 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A health care service contractor shall not require proof of insurability as a condition for issuance of the conversion contract.

(2) A conversion contract may not contain an exclusion for preexisting conditions for any applicant ((~~who is under age nineteen. For policies issued to those age nineteen and older, an exclusion for a preexisting condition is permitted only to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the group contract~~)).

(3) A health care service contractor must offer at least three contract benefit plans that comply with the following:

(a) A major medical plan with a five thousand dollar deductible per person;

(b) A comprehensive medical plan with a five hundred dollar deductible per person; and

(c) A basic medical plan with a one thousand dollar deductible per person.

(4) The insurance commissioner may revise the deductible amounts in subsection (3) of this section from time to time to reflect changing health care costs.

(5) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum benefit standards for conversion contracts.

(6) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for conversion contract provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

(a) Terms of renewability;

(b) Nonduplication of coverage;

(c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions; and

(d) Definitions of terms.

Sec. 6. RCW 48.46.460 and 2011 c 314 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A health maintenance organization must offer a conversion agreement for comprehensive health care services and shall not require proof of insurability as a condition for issuance of the conversion agreement.

(2) A conversion agreement may not contain an exclusion for preexisting conditions for an applicant ((~~who is under age nineteen. For policies issued to those age nineteen and older, an exclusion for a preexisting condition is permitted only to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the group agreement~~)).

(3) A conversion agreement need not provide benefits identical to those provided under the group agreement. The conversion agreement may contain provisions requiring the person covered by the conversion agreement to pay reasonable deductibles and copayments, except for preventive service benefits as defined in 45 C.F.R. 147.130 (2010), implementing sections 2701 through 2763, 2791, and 2792 of the public health service act (42 U.S.C. 300gg through 300gg-63, 300gg-91, and 300gg-92), as amended.

(4) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum benefit standards for conversion agreements.

(5) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for conversion agreement provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

(a) Terms of renewability;

(b) Nonduplication of coverage;

(c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions; and

(d) Definitions of terms.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

(1) RCW 48.43.015 (Health benefit plans—Preexisting conditions) and 2012 c 64 s 2, 2004 c 192 s 5, 2001 c 196 s 7, 2000 c 80 s 3, 2000 c 79 s 20, & 1995 c 265 s 5;

(2) RCW 48.43.017 (Organ transplant benefit waiting periods—Prior creditable coverage) and 2009 c 82 s 2;

(3) RCW 48.43.018 (Requirement to complete the standard health questionnaire—Exemptions—Results) and 2012 c 211 s 16, 2012 c 64 s 1, 2010 c 277 s 1, & 2009 c 42 s 1; and

(4) RCW 48.43.025 (Group health benefit plans—Preexisting conditions) and 2001 c 196 s 9, 2000 c 79 s 23, & 1995 c 265 s 6.

PART III
PROHIBITING UNFAIR RESCISSIONS

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A health plan or health carrier offering group or individual coverage may not rescind such coverage with respect to an enrollee once the enrollee is covered under the plan or coverage involved, except that this section does not apply to a covered person who has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan or coverage. The plan or coverage may not be canceled except as permitted under RCW 48.43.035 or 48.43.038.

(2) The commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing the patient protection and affordable care act.

PART IV
ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS

Sec. 9. RCW 48.43.715 and 2013 c 325 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) ((~~Consistent with federal law,~~)) The commissioner, in consultation with the board and the health care authority, shall, by rule, select the largest small group plan in the state by enrollment as the benchmark plan for the individual and small group market for purposes of establishing the essential health benefits in Washington state ((~~under P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended~~)).

(2) If the essential health benefits benchmark plan for the individual and small group market does not include all of the ten essential health benefits categories ((~~specified by section 1302 of P.L. 111-148, as amended~~)), the commissioner, in consultation with the board and the health care authority, shall, by rule, supplement

the benchmark plan benefits as needed ((~~to meet the minimum requirements of section 1302~~)).

(3) ((~~A~~)) All individual and small group health plans ((~~required to offer~~)) must cover the ten essential health benefits categories, other than a health plan offered through the federal basic health program, a grandfathered health plan, or medicaid((~~, under P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended,~~)). Such a health plan may not be offered in the state unless the commissioner finds that it is substantially equal to the benchmark plan. When making this determination, the commissioner:

(a) Must ensure that the plan covers the ten essential health benefits categories ((~~specified in section 1302 of P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended~~));

(b) May consider whether the health plan has a benefit design that would create a risk of biased selection based on health status and whether the health plan contains meaningful scope and level of benefits in each of the ten essential health benefits categories ((~~specified by section 1302 of P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended~~));

(c) Notwithstanding ((~~the foregoing~~)) (a) and (b) of this subsection, for benefit years beginning January 1, 2015, ((~~and only to the extent permitted by federal law and guidance,~~)) must establish by rule the review and approval requirements and procedures for pediatric oral services when offered in stand-alone dental plans in the nongrandfathered individual and small group markets outside of the exchange; and

(d) ((~~Unless prohibited by federal law and guidance,~~)) Must allow health carriers to also offer pediatric oral services within the health benefit plan in the nongrandfathered individual and small group markets outside of the exchange.

(4) Beginning December 15, 2012, and every year thereafter, the commissioner shall submit to the legislature a list of state-mandated health benefits, the enforcement of which will result in federally imposed costs to the state related to the plans sold through the exchange because the benefits are not included in the essential health benefits designated under federal law. The list must include the anticipated costs to the state of each state-mandated health benefit on the list and any statutory changes needed if funds are not appropriated to defray the state costs for the listed mandate. The commissioner may enforce a mandate on the list for the entire market

1 only if funds are appropriated in an omnibus appropriations act
2 specifically to pay the state portion of the identified costs.

3 **PART V**
4 **COST SHARING**

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
6 RCW to read as follows:
7 (1) For plan years beginning in 2020, the cost sharing incurred
8 under a health plan for the essential health benefits may not exceed
9 the following amounts:
10 (a) For self-only coverage:
11 (i) The amount required under federal law for the calendar year;
12 or
13 (ii) If there are no cost-sharing requirements under federal law,
14 eight thousand two hundred dollars increased by the premium
15 adjustment percentage for the calendar year.
16 (b) For coverage other than self-only coverage:
17 (i) The amount required under federal law for the calendar year;
18 or
19 (ii) If there are no cost-sharing requirements under federal law,
20 sixteen thousand four hundred dollars increased by the premium
21 adjustment percentage for the calendar year.
22 (2) Regardless of whether an enrollee is covered by a self-only
23 plan or a plan that is other than self-only, the enrollee's cost
24 sharing for the essential health benefits may not exceed the self-
25 only annual limitation on cost sharing.
26 (3) For purposes of this section, "the premium adjustment
27 percentage for the calendar year" means the percentage, if any, by
28 which the average per capita premium for health insurance in
29 Washington for the preceding year, as estimated by the commissioner
30 no later than April 1st of such preceding year, exceeds such average
31 per capita premium for 2020 as determined by the commissioner.
32 (4) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt
33 any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with
34 federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing
35 the patient protection and affordable care act.

36 **PART VI**
37 **OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIODS**

Sec. 11. RCW 48.43.0122 and 2011 c 315 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The commissioner shall adopt rules establishing and implementing requirements for the open enrollment periods and special enrollment periods that carriers must follow for individual health benefit plans ((~~and enrollment of persons under age nineteen~~)).

(2) The commissioner shall monitor the sale of individual health benefit plans and if a carrier refuses to sell guaranteed issue policies to persons ((~~under age nineteen~~)) in compliance with rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the commissioner may levy fines or suspend or revoke a certificate of authority as provided in chapter 48.05 RCW.

PART VII
LIFETIME LIMITS

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

A health carrier may not impose annual or lifetime dollar limits on an essential health benefit, other than those permitted as reference-based limitations under rules adopted by the commissioner.

PART VIII
EXPLANATION OF COVERAGE

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The commissioner shall develop standards for use by a health carrier offering individual or group coverage, in compiling and providing to applicants and enrollees a summary of benefits and coverage explanation that accurately describes the benefits and coverage under the applicable plan. In developing the standards, the commissioner must use the standards developed under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-15 in use on the effective date of this section.

(2) The standards must provide for the following:

(a) The standards must ensure that the summary of benefits and coverage is presented in a uniform format that does not exceed four pages in length and does not include print smaller than twelve-point font.

1 (b) The standards must ensure that the summary is presented in a
2 culturally and linguistically appropriate manner and utilizes
3 terminology understandable by the average plan enrollee.
4 (c) The standards must ensure that the summary of benefits and
5 coverage includes:
6 (i) Uniform definitions of standard insurance and medical terms,
7 consistent with the standard definitions developed under this
8 section, so that consumers may compare health insurance coverage and
9 understand the terms of coverage, or exceptions to such coverage;
10 (ii) A description of the coverage, including cost sharing for:
11 (A) The essential health benefits; and
12 (B) Other benefits identified by the commissioner;
13 (iii) The exceptions, reductions, and limitations on coverage;
14 (iv) The cost-sharing provisions, including deductible,
15 coinsurance, and copayment obligations;
16 (v) The renewability and continuation of coverage provisions;
17 (vi) A coverage facts label that includes examples to illustrate
18 common benefits scenarios, including pregnancy and serious or chronic
19 medical conditions and related cost sharing. The scenarios must be
20 based on recognized clinical practice guidelines;
21 (vii) A statement of whether the plan:
22 (A) Provides minimum essential coverage under 26 U.S.C. Sec.
23 5000A(f); and
24 (B) Ensures that the plan share of the total allowed costs of
25 benefits provided under the plan is no less than sixty percent of the
26 costs;
27 (viii) A statement that the outline is a summary of the policy or
28 certificate and that the coverage document itself should be consulted
29 to determine the governing contractual provisions; and
30 (ix) A contact number for the consumer to call with additional
31 questions and a web site where a copy of the actual individual
32 coverage policy or group certificate of coverage may be reviewed and
33 obtained.
34 (3) The commissioner shall periodically review and update the
35 standards developed under this section.
36 (4) A health carrier must provide a summary of benefits and
37 coverage explanation to:
38 (a) An applicant at the time of application;
39 (b) An enrollee prior to the time of enrollment or reenrollment,
40 as applicable; and

(c) A policyholder or certificate holder at the time of issuance of the policy or delivery of the certificate.

(5) A health carrier may provide the summary of benefits and coverage either in paper or electronically.

(6) If a health carrier makes any material modification in any of the terms of the plan that is not reflected in the most recently provided summary of benefits and coverage, the carrier shall provide notice of the modification to enrollees no later than sixty days prior to the date on which the modification will become effective.

(7) A health carrier that fails to provide the information required under this section is subject to a fine of no more than one thousand dollars for each failure. A failure with respect to each enrollee constitutes a separate offense for purposes of this subsection.

(8) The commissioner shall, by rule, provide for the development of standards for the definitions of terms used in health insurance coverage, including the following:

(a) Insurance-related terms, including premium; deductible; coinsurance; copayment; out-of-pocket limit; preferred provider; nonpreferred provider; out-of-network copayments; usual, customary, and reasonable fees; excluded services; grievance; appeals; and any other terms the commissioner determines are important to define so that consumers may compare health insurance coverage and understand the terms of their coverage; and

(b) Medical terms, including hospitalization, hospital outpatient care, emergency room care, physician services, prescription drug coverage, durable medical equipment, home health care, skilled nursing care, rehabilitation services, hospice services, emergency medical transportation, and any other terms the commissioner determines are important to define so that consumers may compare the medical benefits offered by health insurance and understand the extent of those medical benefits or exceptions to those benefits.

(9) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing the patient protection and affordable care act.

PART IX

WAITING PERIODS FOR GROUP COVERAGE

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A group health plan and a health carrier offering group health coverage may not apply any waiting period that exceeds ninety days.

(2) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing the patient protection and affordable care act.

PART X
PROHIBITING ISSUER AND HEALTH PLAN DISCRIMINATION

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A health carrier offering a nongrandfathered health plan in the individual or small group market may not:

(a) In its benefit design or implementation of its benefit design, discriminate against individuals because of their age, expected length of life, present or predicted disability, degree of medical dependency, quality of life, or other health conditions; and

(b) With respect to the health plan, discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

(2) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent an issuer from appropriately utilizing reasonable medical management techniques.

(3) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing the patient protection and affordable care act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** A new section is added to chapter 43.71 RCW to read as follows:

(1) For qualified health plans, an issue offering a qualified health plan may not employ marketing practices or benefit designs that have the effect of discouraging enrollment in the plan by individuals with significant health needs.

(2) Unless preempted by federal law, the commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section, consistent with

1 federal rules and guidance in effect on January 1, 2017, implementing
2 the patient protection and affordable care act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
5 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
6 effect immediately."

SHB 1870 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Health & Long Term Care

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/27/19

7 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "act;" strike the remainder
8 of the title and insert "amending RCW 48.43.005, 48.43.012,
9 48.21.270, 48.44.380, 48.46.460, 48.43.715, and 48.43.0122; adding
10 new sections to chapter 48.43 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
11 43.71 RCW; repealing RCW 48.43.015, 48.43.017, 48.43.018, and
12 48.43.025; prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency."

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