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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 2635
2	Offered January 10, 2007
2 3	Prefiled January 10, 2007
4	A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 30-58.1 and 38.2-3431 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Article 2
5	(§§ 2.2-2503, 2.2-2504, and 2.2-2505) of Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to
6	the abolishment of the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits.
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	Patrons—Reid, Gear, Landes and O'Bannon
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9	Referred to Committee on Rules
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11	Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
12 13	1. That §§ 30-58.1 and 38.2-3431 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:
13 14	§ 30-58.1. Powers and duties of Commission. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
15	A. Make performance reviews of operations of state agencies to ascertain that sums appropriated
16	have been, or are being expended for the purposes for which such appropriations were made and to
17	evaluate the effectiveness of programs in accomplishing legislative intent;
18	B. Study on a continuing basis the operations, practices and duties of state agencies, as they relate to
19	efficiency in the utilization of space, personnel, equipment and facilities;
20	C. Make such special studies and reports of the operations and functions of state agencies as it
21	deems appropriate and as may be requested by the General Assembly;
22	D. Assess, analyze, and evaluate the social and economic costs and benefits of any proposed
23	mandated health insurance benefit or mandated provider, including, but not limited to, the mandate's
24	predicted effect on health care coverage premiums and related costs, net costs or savings to the health
25	care system, and other relevant issues, and report its findings with respect to the proposed mandate to
26	the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits; and
27 28	E-Make such reports on its findings and recommendations at such time and in such manner as the Commission deems proper submitting same to the agencies concerned, to the Governor and to the
20 29	General Assembly. Such reports as are submitted shall relate to the following matters:
<u>30</u>	1. Ways in which the agencies may operate more economically and efficiently;
31	2. Ways in which agencies can provide better services to the Commonwealth and to the people; and
32	3. Areas in which functions of state agencies are duplicative, overlapping, or failing to accomplish
33	legislative objectives or for any other reason should be redefined or redistributed.
34	§ 38.2-3431. Application of article; definitions.
35	A. This article applies to group health plans and to health insurance issuers offering group health
36	insurance coverage, and individual policies offered to employees of small employers.
37	Each insurer proposing to issue individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies
38	providing hospital, medical and surgical or major medical coverage on an expense incurred basis, each
39 40	corporation providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts, and each health maintenance organization or multiple employer welfare arrangement providing health care plans for
40 41	health care services that offers individual or group coverage to the small employer market in this
42	Commonwealth shall be subject to the provisions of this article. Any issuer of individual coverage to
43	employees of a small employer shall be subject to the provisions of this article if any of the following
44	conditions are met:
45	1. Any portion of the premiums or benefits is paid by or on behalf of the employer;
46	2. The eligible employee or dependent is reimbursed, whether through wage adjustments or
47	otherwise, by or on behalf of the employer for any portion of the premium;
<b>48</b>	3. The employer has permitted payroll deduction for the covered individual and any portion of the
<b>49</b>	premium is paid by the employer, provided that the health insurance issuer providing individual
50	coverage under such circumstances shall be registered as a health insurance issuer in the small group
51 52	market under this article, and shall have offered small employer group insurance to the employer in the
52 53	4. The health benefit plan is treated by the employer or any of the covered individuals as part of a
55 54	plan or program for the purpose of §§ 106, 125, or 162 of the United States Internal Revenue Code.
55	B. For the purposes of this article:
56	"Actuarial certification" means a written statement by a member of the American Academy of
57	Actuaries or other individual acceptable to the Commission that a health insurance issuer is in
58	compliance with the provisions of this article based upon the person's examination, including a review of

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the appropriate records and of the actuarial assumptions and methods used by the health insurance issuer 59 60 in establishing premium rates for applicable insurance coverage.

61 "Affiliation period" means a period which, under the terms of the health insurance coverage offered 62 by a health maintenance organization, must expire before the health insurance coverage becomes 63 effective. The health maintenance organization is not required to provide health care services or benefits 64 during such period and no premium shall be charged to the participant or beneficiary for any coverage 65 during the period. 66

1. Such period shall begin on the enrollment date.

2. An affiliation period under a plan shall run concurrently with any waiting period under the plan.

"Beneficiary" has the meaning given such term under section 3(8) of the Employee Retirement 68 Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (8)). "Bona fide association" means, with respect to health insurance coverage offered in this 69

70 71 Commonwealth, an association which: 72

1. Has been actively in existence for at least five years;

2. Has been formed and maintained in good faith for purposes other than obtaining insurance;

74 3. Does not condition membership in the association on any health status-related factor relating to an 75 individual (including an employee of an employer or a dependent of an employee);

4. Makes health insurance coverage offered through the association available to all members 76 77 regardless of any health status-related factor relating to such members (or individuals eligible for coverage through a member); 78

79 5. Does not make health insurance coverage offered through the association available other than in 80 connection with a member of the association; and

6. Meets such additional requirements as may be imposed under the laws of this Commonwealth.

"Certification" means a written certification of the period of creditable coverage of an individual 82 83 under a group health plan and coverage provided by a health insurance issuer offering group health 84 insurance coverage and the coverage if any under such COBRA continuation provision, and the waiting period if any and affiliation period if applicable imposed with respect to the individual for any coverage 85 86 under such plan.

87 "Church plan" has the meaning given such term under section 3(33) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (33)). 88 89

"COBRA continuation provision" means any of the following:

90 1. Section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. § 4980B), other than subsection 91 (f) (1) of such section insofar as it relates to pediatric vaccines;

92 2. Part 6 of subtitle B of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 93 U.S.C. § 1161 et seq.), other than section 609 of such Act; or

3. Title XXII of P.L. 104-191.

95 "Community rate" means the average rate charged for the same or similar coverage to all small employer groups with the same area, age and gender characteristics. This rate shall be based on the 96 97 health insurance issuer's combined claims experience for all groups within its small employer market.

98 "Creditable coverage" means with respect to an individual, coverage of the individual under any of 99 the following: 100

- 1. A group health plan;
- 101 2. Health insurance coverage:

102 3. Part A or B of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1395c or § 1395);

4. Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.), other than coverage consisting 103 104 solely of benefits under section 1928;

5. Chapter 55 of Title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. § 1071 et seq.); 105

106 6. A medical care program of the Indian Health Service or of a tribal organization;

- 107 7. A state health benefits risk pool;
- 108 8. A health plan offered under Chapter 89 of Title 5, United States Code (5 U.S.C. § 8901 et seq.);

9. A public health plan (as defined in federal regulations); 109

10. A health benefit plan under section 5 (e) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. § 2504(e)); or 110

11. Individual health insurance coverage. 111

Such term does not include coverage consisting solely of coverage of excepted benefits. 112

113 "Dependent" means the spouse or child of an eligible employee, subject to the applicable terms of 114 the policy, contract or plan covering the eligible employee.

Eligible employee" means an employee who works for a small group employer on a full-time basis, 115 has a normal work week of 30 or more hours, has satisfied applicable waiting period requirements, and 116 is not a part-time, temporary or substitute employee. 117

"Eligible individual" means such an individual in relation to the employer as shall be determined: 118

119 1. In accordance with the terms of such plan;

2. As provided by the health insurance issuer under rules of the health insurance issuer which are 120

121 uniformly applicable to employers in the group market; and

122 3. In accordance with all applicable law of this Commonwealth governing such issuer and such market.

"Employee" has the meaning given such term under section 3(6) of the Employee Retirement Income
Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (6)).

"Employer" has the meaning given such term under section 3(5) of the Employee Retirement Income
Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (5)), except that such term shall include only employers of two
or more employees.

"Enrollment date" means, with respect to an eligible individual covered under a group health plan or
health insurance coverage, the date of enrollment of the eligible individual in the plan or coverage or, if
earlier, the first day of the waiting period for such enrollment.

132 "Essential and standard health benefit plans" means health benefit plans developed pursuant to
 133 subsection C of this section.

134 "Excepted benefits" means benefits under one or more (or any combination thereof) of the following:
135 1. Benefits not subject to requirements of this article:

136 a. Coverage only for accident, or disability income insurance, or any combination thereof;

b. Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;

- 138 c. Liability insurance, including general liability insurance and automobile liability insurance;
- d. Workers' compensation or similar insurance;
- e. Medical expense and loss of income benefits;
- 141 f. Credit-only insurance;

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g. Coverage for on-site medical clinics; and

h. Other similar insurance coverage, specified in regulations, under which benefits for medical careare secondary or incidental to other insurance benefits.

- 145 2. Benefits not subject to requirements of this article if offered separately:
- a. Limited scope dental or vision benefits;

b. Benefits for long-term care, nursing home care, home health care, community-based care, or any combination thereof; and

- 149 c. Such other similar, limited benefits as are specified in regulations.
- 150 3. Benefits not subject to requirements of this article if offered as independent, noncoordinated 151 benefits:
- a. Coverage only for a specified disease or illness; and
- **153** b. Hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance.
- 4. Benefits not subject to requirements of this article if offered as separate insurance policy:

a. Medicare supplemental health insurance (as defined under section 1882 (g) (1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1395ss (g) (1));

- b. Coverage supplemental to the coverage provided under Chapter 55 of Title 10, United States Code
  (10 U.S.C. § 1071 et seq.); and
  - c. Similar supplemental coverage provided to coverage under a group health plan.

160 "Federal governmental plan" means a governmental plan established or maintained for its employees161 by the government of the United States or by an agency or instrumentality of such government.

162 "Governmental plan" has the meaning given such term under section 3(32) of the Employee
163 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (32)) and any federal governmental plan.

"Group health insurance coverage" means in connection with a group health plan, health insurancecoverage offered in connection with such plan.

166 "Group health plan" means an employee welfare benefit plan (as defined in section 3 (1) of the 167 Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (1)), to the extent that the plan 168 provides medical care and including items and services paid for as medical care to employees or their 169 dependents (as defined under the terms of the plan) directly or through insurance, reimbursement, or 170 otherwise.

171 "Health benefit plan" means any accident and health insurance policy or certificate, health services 172 plan contract, health maintenance organization subscriber contract, plan provided by a MEWA or plan 173 provided by another benefit arrangement. "Health benefit plan" does not mean accident only, credit, or 174 disability insurance; coverage of Medicare services or federal employee health plans, pursuant to 175 contracts with the United States government; Medicare supplement or long-term care insurance; 176 Medicaid coverage; dental only or vision only insurance; specified disease insurance; hospital 177 confinement indemnity coverage; limited benefit health coverage; coverage issued as a supplement to 178 liability insurance; insurance arising out of a workers' compensation or similar law; automobile medical 179 payment insurance; medical expense and loss of income benefits; or insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and that is statutorily required to be contained in any liability 180 181 insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance.

182 "Health insurance coverage" means benefits consisting of medical care (provided directly, through 183 insurance or reimbursement, or otherwise and including items and services paid for as medical care) 184 under any hospital or medical service policy or certificate, hospital or medical service plan contract, or 185 health maintenance organization contract offered by a health insurance issuer.

186 "Health insurance issuer" means an insurance company, or insurance organization (including a health 187 maintenance organization) which is licensed to engage in the business of insurance in this Commonwealth and which is subject to the laws of this Commonwealth which regulate insurance within 188 189 the meaning of section 514 (b) (2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 190 § 1144 (b) (2)). Such term does not include a group health plan.

191 "Health maintenance organization" means:

192 1. A federally qualified health maintenance organization;

193 2. An organization recognized under the laws of this Commonwealth as a health maintenance 194 organization; or

195 3. A similar organization regulated under the laws of this Commonwealth for solvency in the same 196 manner and to the same extent as such a health maintenance organization.

197 "Health status-related factor" means the following in relation to the individual or a dependent eligible 198 for coverage under a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance 199 issuer: 200

- 1. Health status:
- 2. Medical condition (including both physical and mental illnesses);
- 202 3. Claims experience;
- 203 4. Receipt of health care;

5. Medical history; 204

205 6. Genetic information:

7. Evidence of insurability (including conditions arising out of acts of domestic violence); or 206

207 8. Disability.

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208 "Individual health insurance coverage" means health insurance coverage offered to individuals in the 209 individual market, but does not include coverage defined as excepted benefits. Individual health 210 insurance coverage does not include short-term limited duration coverage.

"Individual market" means the market for health insurance coverage offered to individuals other than 211 212 in connection with a group health plan.

213 "Large employer" means, in connection with a group health plan or health insurance coverage with 214 respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least 51 215 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employes at least two employees 216 on the first day of the plan year.

"Large group market" means the health insurance market under which individuals obtain health 217 218 insurance coverage (directly or through any arrangement) on behalf of themselves (and their dependents) 219 through a group health plan maintained by a large employer or through a health insurance issuer.

"Late enrollee" means, with respect to coverage under a group health plan or health insurance 220 221 coverage provided by a health insurance issuer, a participant or beneficiary who enrolls under the plan 222 other than during: 223

1. The first period in which the individual is eligible to enroll under the plan; or

2. A special enrollment period as required pursuant to subsections J through M of § 38.2-3432.3.

"Medical care" means amounts paid for:

226 1. The diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or amounts paid for the 227 purpose of affecting any structure or function of the body; 228

2. Transportation primarily for and essential to medical care referred to in subdivision 1; and

3. Insurance covering medical care referred to in subdivisions 1 and 2.

230 "Network plan" means health insurance coverage of a health insurance issuer under which the 231 financing and delivery of medical care (including items and services paid for as medical care) are provided, in whole or in part, through a defined set of providers under contract with the health insurance 232 233 issuer. 234

"Nonfederal governmental plan" means a governmental plan that is not a federal governmental plan.

"Participant" has the meaning given such term under section 3(7) of the Employee Retirement 235 Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (7)). 236

"Placed for adoption," or "placement" or "being placed" for adoption, in connection with any 237 238 placement for adoption of a child with any person, means the assumption and retention by such person of a legal obligation for total or partial support of such child in anticipation of adoption of such child. 239 240 The child's placement with such person terminates upon the termination of such legal obligation.

"Plan sponsor" has the meaning given such term under section 3(16) (B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1002 (16) (B)). 241 242

"Preexisting condition exclusion" means, with respect to coverage, a limitation or exclusion of 243

benefits relating to a condition based on the fact that the condition was present before the date of
enrollment for such coverage, whether or not any medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was
recommended or received before such date. Genetic information shall not be treated as a preexisting
condition in the absence of a diagnosis of the condition related to such information.

248 "Premium" means all moneys paid by an employer and eligible employees as a condition of coverage249 from a health insurance issuer, including fees and other contributions associated with the health benefit250 plan.

251 "Rating period" means the 12-month period for which premium rates are determined by a health252 insurance issuer and are assumed to be in effect.

253 "Service area" means a broad geographic area of the Commonwealth in which a health insurance
254 issuer sells or has sold insurance policies on or before January 1994, or upon its subsequent
255 authorization to do business in Virginia.

"Small employer" means in connection with a group health plan or health insurance coverage with
respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least two but
not more than 50 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employs at
least two employees on the first day of the plan year.

"Small group market" means the health insurance market under which individuals obtain health insurance coverage (directly or through any arrangement) on behalf of themselves (and their dependents) through a group health plan maintained by a small employer or through a health insurance issuer.

"State" means each of the several states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

265 "Waiting period" means, with respect to a group health plan or health insurance coverage provided 266 by a health insurance issuer and an individual who is a potential participant or beneficiary in the plan, 267 the period that must pass with respect to the individual before the individual is eligible to be covered for 268 benefits under the terms of the plan. If an employee or dependent enrolls during a special enrollment 269 period pursuant to subsections J through M of § 38.2-3432.3 or as a late enrollee, any period before 270 such enrollment is not a waiting period.

C. The Commission shall adopt regulations establishing the essential and standard plans for sale in 271 272 the small employer market. Such regulations shall incorporate the recommendations of the Essential 273 Health Services Panel, established pursuant to Chapter 847 of the 1992 Acts of Assembly. The 274 Commission shall modify such regulations as necessary to incorporate any revisions to the essential and 275 standard plans submitted by the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits 276 <del>pursuant to  $\frac{1}{2}$  2.2.2503.</del> Every health insurance issuer shall, as a condition of transacting business in 277 Virginia with small employers, offer to small employers the essential and standard plans, subject to the 278 provisions of § 38.2-3432.2. However, any regulation adopted by the Commission shall contain a 279 provision requiring all health insurance issuers to offer an option permitting a small employer electing to 280 be covered under either an essential or standard health benefit plan to choose coverage that does not 281 provide dental benefits. The regulation shall also require a small employer electing such option, as a 282 condition of continuing eligibility for coverage pursuant to this article, to purchase separate dental 283 coverage for all eligible employees and eligible dependents from a dental services plan authorized 284 pursuant to Chapter 45 of this title. All health insurance issuers shall issue the plans to every small 285 employer that elects to be covered under either one of the plans and agrees to make the required 286 premium payments, and shall satisfy the following provisions:

287 1. Such plan may include cost containment and cost sharing features such as, but not limited to, 288 utilization review of health care services including review of medical necessity of hospital and physician 289 services; case management; selective contracting with hospitals, physicians and other health care 290 providers, subject to the limitations set forth in §§ 38.2-3407 and 38.2-4209 and Chapter 43 291 (§ 38.2-4300 et seq.) of this title; reasonable benefit differentials applicable to providers that participate 292 or do not participate in arrangements using restricted network provisions; co-payment, co-insurance, 293 deductible or other cost sharing arrangement as those terms are defined in § 38.2-3407.12; or other managed care provisions. The essential and standard plans for health maintenance organizations shall 294 295 contain benefits and cost-sharing levels which are consistent with the basic method of operation and 296 benefit plans of federally qualified health maintenance organizations, if a health maintenance 297 organization is federally qualified, and of nonfederally qualified health maintenance organizations, if a 298 health maintenance organization is not federally qualified. The essential and standard plans of coverage 299 for health maintenance organizations shall be actuarial equivalents of these plans for health insurance 300 issuers.

301 2. No law requiring the coverage or offering of coverage of a benefit or provider pursuant to
302 § 38.2-3408 or § 38.2-4221 shall apply to the essential or standard health care plan or riders thereof.

303 3. Every health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall, as a condition of transacting business in Virginia with small employers, offer and make available to small employers an

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**305** essential and a standard health benefit plan, subject to the provisions of § 38.2-3432.2.

306 4. All essential and standard benefit plans issued to small employers shall use a policy form 307 approved by the Commission providing coverage defined by the essential and standard benefit plans. 308 Coverages providing benefits greater than and in addition to the essential and standard plans may be 309 provided by rider, separate policy or plan provided that no rider, separate policy or plan shall reduce 310 benefit or premium. A health insurance issuer shall submit all policy forms, including applications, 311 enrollment forms, policies, subscription contracts, certificates, evidences of coverage, riders, amendments, endorsements and disclosure plans to the Commission for approval in the same manner as 312 313 required by § 38.2-316. Each rider, separate policy or plan providing benefits greater than the essential and standard benefit plans may require a specific premium for the benefits provided in such rider, 314 separate policy or plan. The premium for such riders shall be determined in the same manner as the 315 premiums are determined for the essential and standard plans. The Commission at any time may, after 316 317 providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing to a health insurance issuer, disapprove the continued use by the health insurance issuer of an essential or standard health benefit plan on the grounds that 318 319 such plan does not meet the requirements of this article.

5. No health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage is required to offer coverageor accept applications pursuant to subdivisions 3 and 4 of this subsection:

a. From a small employer already covered under a health benefit plan except for coverage that is to
commence on the group's anniversary date, but this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a group
from seeking coverage or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage from
issuing coverage to a group prior to its anniversary date; or

b. If the Commission determines that acceptance of an application or applications would result in thehealth insurance issuer being declared an impaired insurer.

A health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage that does not offer coverage
 pursuant to subdivision 5 b may not offer coverage to small employers until the Commission determines
 that the health insurance issuer is no longer impaired.

331 6. Every health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall uniformly apply the provisions of subdivision C 5 of this section and shall fairly market the essential and standard health 332 333 benefit plans to all small employers in their service area of the Commonwealth. A health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage that fails to fairly market as required by this subdivision 334 335 may not offer coverage in the Commonwealth to new small employers until the later of 180 days after 336 the unfair marketing has been identified and proven to the Commission or the date on which the health 337 insurance issuer submits and the Commission approves a plan to fairly market to the health insurance 338 issuer's service area.

339 7. No health maintenance organization is required to offer coverage or accept applications pursuant to340 subdivisions 3 and 4 of this subsection in the case of any of the following:

a. To small employers, where the policy would not be delivered or issued for delivery in the health
 maintenance organization's approved service areas;

b. To an employee, where the employee does not reside or work within the health maintenanceorganization's approved service areas;

345 c. To small employers if the health maintenance organization is a federally qualified health
346 maintenance organization and it demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commission that the federally
347 qualified health maintenance organization is prevented from doing so by federal requirement; however,
348 any such exemption under this subdivision would be limited to the essential plan; or

349 d. Within an area where the health maintenance organization demonstrates to the satisfaction of the 350 Commission, that it will not have the capacity within that area and its network of providers to deliver 351 services adequately to the enrollees of those groups because of its obligations to existing group contract 352 holders and enrollees. A health maintenance organization that does not offer coverage pursuant to this 353 subdivision may not offer coverage in the applicable area to new employer groups with more than 50 354 eligible employees until the later of 180 days after closure to new applications or the date on which the 355 health maintenance organization notifies the Commission that it has regained capacity to deliver services 356 to small employers. In the case of a health maintenance organization doing business in the small 357 employer market in one service area of this Commonwealth, the rules set forth in this subdivision shall 358 apply to the health maintenance organization's operations in the service area, unless the provisions of 359 subdivision 6 of this subsection apply.

8. In order to ensure the broadest availability of health benefit plans to small employers, the
 Commission shall set market conduct and other requirements for health insurance issuers, agents and
 third-party administrators, including requirements relating to the following:

a. Registration by each health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage with the
 Commission of its intention to offer health insurance coverage in the small group market under this
 article;

b. Publication by the Commission of a list of all health insurance issuers who offer coverage in the

367 small group market, including a potential requirement applicable to agents, third-party administrators,
368 and health insurance issuers that no health benefit plan may be sold to a small employer by a health
369 insurance issuer not so identified as a health insurance issuer in the small group market;

c. The availability of a broadly publicized toll-free telephone number for the Commission's Bureau of
 Insurance for access by small employers to information concerning this article;

d. To the extent deemed to be necessary to ensure the fair distribution of small employers among carriers, periodic reports by health insurance issuers about plans issued to small employers; provided that reporting requirements shall be limited to information concerning case characteristics and numbers of health benefit plans in various categories marketed or issued to small employers. Health insurance issuers shall maintain data relating to the essential and standard benefit plans separate from data relating to additional benefits made available by rider for the purpose of complying with the reporting requirements of this section; and

e. Methods concerning periodic demonstration by health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage that they are marketing and issuing health benefit plans to small employers in fulfillment of the purposes of this article.

9. All essential and standard health benefits plans contracts delivered, issued for delivery, reissued, renewed, or extended in this Commonwealth on or after July 1, 1997, shall include coverage for 365 days of inpatient hospitalization for each covered individual during a 12-month period. If coverage under the essential or standard health benefits plan terminates while a covered person is hospitalized, the inpatient hospital benefits shall continue to be provided until the earliest of (i) the day the maximum amount of benefit has been provided or (ii) the day the covered person is no longer hospitalized as an inpatient.

389 2. That Article 2 (§§ 2.2-2503, 2.2-2504, and 2.2-2505) of Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 of the Code of 390 Virginia is repealed.