

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 281

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

PHARMACISTS. Provides for pharmacy record audits. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1852(7) and the introductory paragraph of 1856.1(B), 1856.1(B)(2)(b) and (G) and to enact R.S. 1856.1(H), relative to pharmacy record audits; to provide for definitions; to provide for audits and reviews of pharmacy records; to provide for notification to the Department of Insurance; to provide for enforcement action; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 22:1852(7) and the introductory paragraph of 1856.1(B), 1856.1(B)(2)(b) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 1856.1(H) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1852. Definitions

As used in this Subpart, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

\* \* \*

(7) "Health insurance issuer" means an insurance company or its agent, including a health maintenance organization as defined and licensed pursuant to Subpart I of Part I of Chapter 2 of this Title, unless preempted as an employee benefit plan under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. For

1 purposes of this Subpart, a "health insurance issuer" shall include the Office of  
2 Group Benefits.

3 \* \* \*

4 §1856.1. Pharmacy record audits; recoupment; appeals

5 \* \* \*

6 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when an audit  
7 **or other review** of the records of a pharmacy is conducted by an entity, ~~the audit it~~  
8 shall be conducted in accordance with the following criteria:

9 \* \* \*

10 (2)

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) Nothing in this Paragraph shall prohibit review of a claim filed by a  
13 pharmacy to determine if the claim is payable or is paid correctly. Such review ~~may~~  
14 ~~require the submission of prescription copies and other documentation related to the~~  
15 ~~specific claims under review but~~ shall not require the pharmacy to provide any  
16 additional information ~~not related to those specific claims.~~

17 \* \* \*

18 G. This Section shall not apply to:

19 (1) ~~Any quality assurance review, as defined by the time period prior to the~~  
20 ~~reimbursement by the entity to the pharmacy.~~

21 (2) ~~An any investigation that is initiated based on or that involves suspected~~  
22 ~~or alleged fraud, willful misrepresentation, or abuse. Any entity initiating an~~  
23 ~~investigation in accordance with this Subsection shall provide notice of the~~  
24 ~~investigation and information related to the alleged fraud, willful~~  
25 ~~misrepresentation, or abuse to the office of insurance fraud in the Department~~  
26 ~~of Insurance prior to auditing the pharmacy in a format determined by the~~  
27 ~~commissioner.~~

28 **H. If, upon investigation, the commissioner finds a violation of this**  
29 **Section has occurred, either on his own initiative or in response to a complaint**

1            **filed with the department, the commissioner shall take appropriate enforcement**  
 2            **action, which may include suspending or revoking the entity's license in**  
 3            **accordance with the Louisiana Insurance Code.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

	DIGEST	
SB 281 Original	2024 Regular Session	Edmonds

Present law provides for definitions regarding pharmacies and pharmacist claims.

Proposed law makes changes to the definition of "health insurance issuer".

Present law provides criteria for entities conducting audits of pharmacy records.

Proposed law expands the criteria to apply to other reviews of records and makes changes to audit procedures.

Present law provides for exemptions from the audit criteria.

Proposed law removes the exemption for quality assurance reviews.

Proposed law retains the exemption for investigations involving suspected or alleged fraud, willful misrepresentation, or abuse and requires entities to report those investigations to the Department of Insurance.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to take enforcement action for violations of present law and proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 22:1852(7), 1856.1(B)(intro para), 1856.1(B)(2)(b) and (G); adds R.S. 1856.1(H))