Enrolled Copy **H.B. 106**

HEALTH INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS

2004 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends accident and health insurance provisions related to premium grace periods and discontinuation of coverage in the individual and small employer market.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- changes the grace period for nonpayment of premium to 15 days;
- clarifies coverage during a grace period;
- provides that if the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool is dissolved or discontinued, or if enrollment is capped or suspended, a covered carrier:
  - may elect to discontinue offering new individual health benefit plans but then may not reenter the individual market for five years;
  - may continue to write business in the small employer market; and
  - may decline to accept individuals applying for individual enrollment, other than HIPAA eligible individuals;
- repeals the provision that links individual premium rates to the rates established by the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool;
- amends preexisting conditions waiver provisions for the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool;
- amends powers of the board; and
- makes technical amendments.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides an immediate effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

31A-8-402.3, as last amended by Chapter 252, Laws of Utah 2003

31A-22-607, as last amended by Chapter 116, Laws of Utah 2001

31A-22-721, as last amended by Chapter 252, Laws of Utah 2003

31A-29-106, as last amended by Chapter 168, Laws of Utah 2003

31A-29-113, as last amended by Chapter 168, Laws of Utah 2003

31A-30-107, as last amended by Chapter 252, Laws of Utah 2003

31A-30-107.3, as enacted by Chapter 308, Laws of Utah 2002

31A-30-108, as last amended by Chapter 308, Laws of Utah 2002

REPEALS:

31A-30-106.6, as enacted by Chapter 265, Laws of Utah 1997

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **31A-8-402.3** is amended to read:

31A-8-402.3. Discontinuance, nonrenewal, or changes to group health benefit plans.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a group health benefit plan for a plan sponsor is renewable and continues in force:

(a) with respect to all eligible employees and dependents; and

(b) at the option of the plan sponsor.

(2) A health benefit plan for a plan sponsor may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) for a network plan, if:

(i) there is no longer any enrollee under the group health plan who lives, resides, or works in:

(A) the service area of the insurer; or

(B) the area for which the insurer is authorized to do business; and

(ii) in the case of the small employer market, the insurer applies the same criteria the insurer would apply in denying enrollment in the plan under Subsection 31A-30-108[~~(6)~~] (7); or

(b) for coverage made available in the small or large employer market only through an association, if:

(i) the employer's membership in the association ceases; and

(ii) the coverage is terminated uniformly without regard to any health status-related factor relating to any covered individual.

(3) A health benefit plan for a plan sponsor may be discontinued if:

(a) a condition described in Subsection (2) exists;

(b) the plan sponsor fails to pay premiums or contributions in accordance with the terms of the contract;

(c) the plan sponsor:

(i) performs an act or practice that constitutes fraud; or

(ii) makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact under the terms of the coverage;

(d) the insurer:

(i) elects to discontinue offering a particular health benefit product delivered or issued for delivery in this state; and

(ii) (A) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to each plan sponsor, employee, or dependent of a plan sponsor or an employee; and

(II) at least 90 days before the date the coverage will be discontinued;

(B) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to the commissioner; and

(II) at least three working days prior to the date the notice is sent to the affected plan sponsors, employees, and dependents of the plan sponsors or employees;

(C) offers to each plan sponsor, on a guaranteed issue basis, the option to purchase:

(I) all other health benefit products currently being offered by the insurer in the market; or

(II) in the case of a large employer, any other health benefit product currently being

offered in that market; and

(D) in exercising the option to discontinue that product and in offering the option of coverage in this section, acts uniformly without regard to:

(I) the claims experience of a plan sponsor;

(II) any health status-related factor relating to any covered participant or beneficiary; or

(III) any health status-related factor relating to any new participant or beneficiary who may become eligible for the coverage; or

(e) the insurer:

(i) elects to discontinue all of the insurer's health benefit plans in:

(A) the small employer market;

(B) the large employer market; or

(C) both the small employer and large employer markets; and

(ii) (A) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to each plan sponsor, employee, or dependent of a plan sponsor or an employee; and

(II) at least 180 days before the date the coverage will be discontinued;

(B) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to the commissioner in each state in which an affected insured individual is known to reside; and

(II) at least 30 working days prior to the date the notice is sent to the affected plan sponsors, employees, and the dependents of the plan sponsors or employees;

(C) discontinues and nonrenews all plans issued or delivered for issuance in the market; and

(D) provides a plan of orderly withdrawal as required by Section 31A-4-115.

(4) A large employer health benefit plan may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's:

(i) minimum participation requirements; or

(ii) employer contribution requirements.

(5) A small employer health benefit plan may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's employer contribution requirements.

(6) A small employer health benefit plan may be nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's minimum participation requirements.

(7) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(d), an eligible employee may be discontinued if after issuance of coverage the eligible employee:

(i) engages in an act or practice in connection with the coverage that constitutes fraud; or

(ii) makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in connection with the coverage.

(b) An eligible employee that is discontinued under Subsection (7)(a) may reenroll:

(i) 12 months after the date of discontinuance; and

(ii) if the plan sponsor's coverage is in effect at the time the eligible employee applies to reenroll.

(c) At the time the eligible employee's coverage is discontinued under Subsection (7)(a), the insurer shall notify the eligible employee of the right to reenroll when coverage is discontinued.

(d) An eligible employee may not be discontinued under this Subsection (7) because of a fraud or misrepresentation that relates to health status.

(8) For purposes of this section, a reference to "plan sponsor" includes a reference to the employer:

(a) with respect to coverage provided to an employer member of the association; and

(b) if the health benefit plan is made available by an insurer in the employer market only through:

(i) an association;

(ii) a trust; or

(iii) a discretionary group.

(9) An insurer may modify a health benefit plan for a plan sponsor only:

(a) at the time of coverage renewal; and

(b) if the modification is effective uniformly among all plans with that product.

Section 2. Section **31A-22-607** is amended to read:

31A-22-607. Grace period.

(1) Every individual or franchise accident and health insurance policy shall contain clauses providing for a grace period for premium payment only of at least [~~seven days for weekly premium policies, ten~~] 15 days for weekly or monthly premium policies and 30 days for all other policies, for each premium after the first. [~~During the grace period, the policy continues in force.~~] A carrier may elect to include a grace period that is longer than 15 days for weekly or monthly policies.

(a) The policy is not in force during the grace period.

(b) If the insurer receives payment before the grace period expires, the policy continues in force with no gap in coverage.

(c) If the insurer does not receive payment before the grace period expires, the policy shall be terminated as of the last date for which the premium was paid in full.

(d) A grace period is not required if the policyholder has requested that the policy be discontinued.

(2) Every group or blanket accident and health policy shall provide for a grace period of at least 30 days, unless the policyholder gives written notice of discontinuance prior to the date of discontinuance, in accordance with the policy terms. In group or blanket policies, the policy may provide for payment of a pro rata premium for the period the policy is in effect during the grace period under this Subsection (2).

(3) If the insurer has not guaranteed the insured a right to renew an accident and health policy, any grace period beyond the expiration or anniversary date may, if provided in the policy, be cut off by compliance with the notice provision under Subsection 31A-21-303(4)(b).

Section 3. Section **31A-22-721** is amended to read:

31A-22-721. A health benefit plan for a plan sponsor -- Discontinuance and

nonrenewal.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a health benefit plan for a plan sponsor is renewable and continues in force:

(a) with respect to all eligible employees and dependents; and

(b) at the option of the plan sponsor.

(2) A health benefit plan for a plan sponsor may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) for a network plan, if:

(i) there is no longer any enrollee under the group health plan who lives, resides, or works in:

(A) the service area of the insurer; or

(B) the area for which the insurer is authorized to do business; and

(ii) in the case of the small employer market, the insurer applies the same criteria the insurer would apply in denying enrollment in the plan under Subsection 31A-30-108[~~(6)~~] (7); or

(b) for coverage made available in the small or large employer market only through an association, if:

(i) the employer's membership in the association ceases; and

(ii) the coverage is terminated uniformly without regard to any health status-related factor relating to any covered individual.

(3) A health benefit plan for a plan sponsor may be discontinued if:

(a) a condition described in Subsection (2) exists;

(b) the plan sponsor fails to pay premiums or contributions in accordance with the terms of the contract;

(c) the plan sponsor:

(i) performs an act or practice that constitutes fraud; or

(ii) makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact under the terms of the coverage;

(d) the insurer:

(i) elects to discontinue offering a particular health benefit product delivered or issued for

delivery in this state;

(ii) (A) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to each plan sponsor, employee, and dependent of a plan sponsor or employee; and

(II) at least 90 days before the date the coverage will be discontinued;

(B) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to the commissioner; and

(II) at least three working days prior to the date the notice is sent to the affected plan sponsors, employees, and dependents of plan sponsors or employees;

(C) offers to each plan sponsor, on a guaranteed issue basis, the option to purchase any other health benefit products currently being offered:

(I) by the insurer in the market; or

(II) in the case of a large employer, any other health benefit plan currently being offered in that market; and

(D) in exercising the option to discontinue that product and in offering the option of coverage in this section, the insurer acts uniformly without regard to:

(I) the claims experience of a plan sponsor;

(II) any health status-related factor relating to any covered participant or beneficiary; or

(III) any health status-related factor relating to a new participant or beneficiary who may become eligible for coverage; or

(e) the insurer:

(i) elects to discontinue all of the insurer's health benefit plans:

(A) in the small employer market; or

(B) the large employer market; or

(C) both the small and large employer markets;

(ii) (A) provides notice of the discontinuance in writing:

(I) to each plan sponsor, employee, or dependent of a plan sponsor or an employee; and

(II) at least 180 days before the date the coverage will be discontinued;

(B) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to the commissioner in each state in which an affected insured individual is known to reside; and

(II) at least 30 business days prior to the date the notice is sent to the affected plan sponsors, employees, and dependents of a plan sponsor or employee;

(C) discontinues and nonrenews all plans issued or delivered for issuance in the market; and

(D) provides a plan of orderly withdrawal as required by Section 31A-4-115.

(4) A large employer health benefit plan may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's:

(i) minimum participation requirements; or

(ii) employer contribution requirements.

(5) A small employer health benefit plan may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's employer contribution requirements.

(6) A small employer health benefit plan may be nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's minimum participation requirements.

(7) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(d), an eligible employee may be discontinued if after issuance of coverage the eligible employee:

(i) engages in an act or practice that constitutes fraud in connection with the coverage; or

(ii) makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in connection with the coverage.

(b) An eligible employee that is discontinued under Subsection (7)(a) may reenroll:

(i) 12 months after the date of discontinuance; and

(ii) if the plan sponsor's coverage is in effect at the time the eligible employee applies to reenroll.

(c) At the time the eligible employee's coverage is discontinued under Subsection (7)(a),

the insurer shall notify the eligible employee of the right to reenroll when coverage is discontinued.

(d) An eligible employee may not be discontinued under this Subsection (7) because of a fraud or misrepresentation that relates to health status.

(8) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (8)(b), an insurer that elects to discontinue offering a health benefit plan under Subsection (3)(e) shall be prohibited from writing new business in such market in this state for a period of five years beginning on the date of discontinuation of the last coverage that is discontinued.

(b) The commissioner may waive the prohibition under Subsection (8)(a) when the commissioner finds that waiver is in the public interest:

(i) to promote competition; or

(ii) to resolve inequity in the marketplace.

(9) If an insurer is doing business in one established geographic service area of the state, this section applies only to the insurer's operations in that geographic service area.

(10) An insurer may modify a health benefit plan for a plan sponsor only:

(a) at the time of coverage renewal; and

(b) if the modification is effective uniformly among all plans with a particular product or service.

(11) For purposes of this section, a reference to "plan sponsor" includes a reference to the employer:

(a) with respect to coverage provided to an employer member of the association; and

(b) if the health benefit plan is made available by an insurer in the employer market only through:

(i) an association;

(ii) a trust; or

(iii) a discretionary group.

(12) (a) A small employer that, after purchasing a health benefit plan in the small group market, employs on average more than 50 eligible employees on each business day in a calendar

year may continue to renew the health benefit plan purchased in the small group market.

(b) A large employer that, after purchasing a health benefit plan in the large group market, employs on average less than 51 eligible employees on each business day in a calendar year may continue to renew the health benefit plan purchased in the large group market.

(13) An insurer offering employer sponsored health benefit plans shall comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, P. L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1962, Sec. 2701 and 2702.

Section 4. Section **31A-29-106** is amended to read:

31A-29-106. Powers of board.

(1) The board shall have the general powers and authority granted under the laws of this state to insurance companies licensed to transact health care insurance business. In addition, the board shall have the specific authority to:

(a) enter into contracts to carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter, including, with the approval of the commissioner, contracts with:

(i) similar pools of other states for the joint performance of common administrative functions; or

(ii) persons or other organizations for the performance of administrative functions;

(b) sue or be sued, including taking such legal action necessary to avoid the payment of improper claims against the pool or the coverage provided through the pool;

(c) establish appropriate rates, rate schedules, rate adjustments, expense allowances, agents' referral fees, claim reserve formulas, and any other actuarial function appropriate to the operation of the pool;

(d) issue policies of insurance in accordance with the requirements of this chapter;

(e) retain an executive director and appropriate legal, actuarial, and other personnel as necessary to provide technical assistance in the operations of the pool;

(f) establish rules, conditions, and procedures for reinsuring risks under this chapter;

(g) cause the pool to have an annual audit of its operations by the state auditor;

(h) coordinate with the Department of Health in seeking to obtain from the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services, or other appropriate office or agency of government, all appropriate waivers, authority, and permission needed to coordinate the coverage available from the pool with coverage available under Medicaid, either before or after Medicaid coverage, or as a conversion option upon completion of Medicaid eligibility, without the necessity for requalification by the enrollee;

(i) provide for and employ cost containment measures and requirements including preadmission certification, concurrent inpatient review, and individual case management for the purpose of making the pool more cost-effective;

(j) offer pool coverage through contracts with health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, and other managed care systems that will manage costs while maintaining quality care;

(k) establish annual limits on benefits payable under the pool to or on behalf of any enrollee;

(l) exclude from coverage under the pool specific benefits, medical conditions, and procedures for the purpose of protecting the financial viability of the pool;

(m) administer the Pool Fund;

(n) make rules in accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to implement this chapter; and

(o) adopt, trademark, and copyright a trade name for the pool for use in marketing and publicizing the pool and its products.

(2) (a) The board shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature which shall include:

(i) the net premiums anticipated;

(ii) actuarial projections of payments required of the pool;

(iii) the expenses of administration; and

(iv) the anticipated reserves or losses of the pool.

(b) The budget for operation of the pool is subject to the approval of the board.

(c) The administrative budget of the board and the commissioner under this chapter shall

comply with the requirements of Title 63, Chapter 38, Budgetary Procedures Act, and is subject to review and approval by the Legislature.

(3) (a) The board shall on or before September 1, 2004, require the plan administrator or an independent actuarial consultant retained by the plan administrator to redetermine the reasonable equivalent of the criteria for uninsurability required under Subsection 31A-30-106(1)(j) that is used by the board to determine eligibility for coverage in the pool.

(b) The board shall redetermine the criteria established in Subsection (3)(a) at least every five years thereafter.

Section 5. Section **31A-29-113** is amended to read:

31A-29-113. Benefits -- Additional types of pool insurance -- Preexisting conditions -- Waiver -- Maximum benefits.

(1) (a) The pool policy shall pay for eligible medical expenses rendered or furnished for the diagnoses or treatment of illness or injury that:

(i) exceed the deductible and copayment amounts applicable under Section 31A-29-114; and

(ii) are not otherwise limited or excluded.

(b) Eligible medical expenses are the allowed charges established by the board for the health care services and items rendered during times for which benefits are extended under the pool policy.

(2) The coverage to be issued by the pool, its schedule of benefits, exclusions, and other limitations shall be established by the board.

(3) The commissioner shall approve the benefit package developed by the board to ensure its compliance with this chapter.

(4) The pool shall offer at least one benefit plan through a managed care program as authorized under Section 31A-29-106.

(5) This chapter may not be construed to prohibit the pool from issuing additional types of pool policies with different types of benefits which in the opinion of the board may be of benefit to the citizens of Utah.

(6) The board shall design and require an administrator to employ cost containment measures and requirements including preadmission certification and concurrent inpatient review for the purpose of making the pool more cost effective. The provisions of Sections 31A-22-617 and 31A-22-618 do not apply to coverage issued under this chapter.

(7) (a) A pool policy may contain provisions under which coverage for a preexisting condition is excluded during a six-month period following the effective date of plan coverage for a given individual.

(b) Subsection (7)(a) does not apply to a HIPAA eligible individual.

(8) A pool policy may exclude coverage for pregnancies for ten months following the effective date of coverage, unless the individual is HIPAA eligible.

(9) (a) The pool will waive the preexisting condition exclusion described in Subsection (7)(a) for an individual that is changing health coverage to the pool, to the extent to which similar exclusions have been satisfied under any prior health insurance coverage if[~~: (i)~~] the individual applies not later than 63 days following the date of involuntary termination, other than for nonpayment of premiums, from health coverage[~~; or~~].

[~~(ii) the individual's premium rate exceeds the rate of the pool for equal or lesser coverage provided that the application for pool coverage is made no later than 63 days following the termination from the prior health insurance coverage.~~]

(b) In accordance with Subsections (7)(b) and (8), the pool may not apply a preexisting condition exclusion if the individual is HIPAA eligible.

(c) If this Subsection (9) applies, coverage in the pool shall be effective from the date on which the prior coverage was terminated.

(10) Covered benefits available from the pool may not exceed a $1,000,000 lifetime maximum, which includes a per enrollee calendar year maximum established by the board.

Section 6. Section **31A-30-107** is amended to read:

31A-30-107. Renewal -- Limitations -- Exclusions -- Discontinuance and nonrenewal.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a small employer health benefit plan is

renewable and continues in force:

(a) with respect to all eligible employees and dependents; and

(b) at the option of the plan sponsor.

(2) A small employer health benefit plan may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) for a network plan, if:

(i) there is no longer any enrollee under the group health plan who lives, resides, or works in:

(A) the service area of the covered carrier; or

(B) the area for which the covered carrier is authorized to do business; and

(ii) in the case of the small employer market, the small employer carrier applies the same criteria the small employer carrier would apply in denying enrollment in the plan under Subsection 31A-30-108[~~(6)~~] (7); or

(b) for coverage made available in the small or large employer market only through an association, if:

(i) the employer's membership in the association ceases; and

(ii) the coverage is terminated uniformly without regard to any health status-related factor relating to any covered individual.

(3) A small employer health benefit plan may be discontinued if:

(a) a condition described in Subsection (2) exists;

(b) the plan sponsor fails to pay premiums or contributions in accordance with the terms of the contract;

(c) the plan sponsor:

(i) performs an act or practice that constitutes fraud; or

(ii) makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact under the terms of the coverage;

(d) the covered carrier:

(i) elects to discontinue offering a particular small employer health benefit product delivered or issued for delivery in this state; and

(ii) (A) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to each plan sponsor, employee, or dependent of a plan sponsor or an employee; and

(II) at least 90 days before the date the coverage will be discontinued;

(B) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to the commissioner; and

(II) at least three working days prior to the date the notice is sent to the affected plan sponsors, employees, and dependents of the plan sponsors or employees;

(C) offers to each plan sponsor, on a guaranteed issue basis, the option to purchase all other small employer health benefit products currently being offered by the small employer carrier in the market; and

(D) in exercising the option to discontinue that product and in offering the option of coverage in this section, acts uniformly without regard to:

(I) the claims experience of a plan sponsor;

(II) any health status-related factor relating to any covered participant or beneficiary; or

(III) any health status-related factor relating to any new participant or beneficiary who may become eligible for the coverage; or

(e) the covered carrier:

(i) elects to discontinue all of the covered carrier's small employer health benefit plans in:

(A) the small employer market;

(B) the large employer market; or

(C) both the small employer and large employer markets; and

(ii) (A) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to each plan sponsor, employee, or dependent of a plan sponsor or an employee; and

(II) at least 180 days before the date the coverage will be discontinued;

(B) provides notice of the discontinuation in writing:

(I) to the commissioner in each state in which an affected insured individual is known to reside; and

(II) at least 30 working days prior to the date the notice is sent to the affected plan

sponsors, employees, and the dependents of the plan sponsors or employees;

(C) discontinues and nonrenews all plans issued or delivered for issuance in the market; and

(D) provides a plan of orderly withdrawal as required by Section 31A-4-115.

(4) A small employer health benefit plan may be discontinued or nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's employer contribution requirements.

(5) A small employer health benefit plan may be nonrenewed:

(a) if a condition described in Subsection (2) exists; or

(b) for noncompliance with the insurer's minimum participation requirements.

(6) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(d), an eligible employee may be discontinued if after issuance of coverage the eligible employee:

(i) engages in an act or practice that constitutes fraud in connection with the coverage; or

(ii) makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in connection with the coverage.

(b) An eligible employee that is discontinued under Subsection (6)(a) may reenroll:

(i) 12 months after the date of discontinuance; and

(ii) if the plan sponsor's coverage is in effect at the time the eligible employee applies to reenroll.

(c) At the time the eligible employee's coverage is discontinued under Subsection (6)(a), the covered carrier shall notify the eligible employee of the right to reenroll when coverage is discontinued.

(d) An eligible employee may not be discontinued under this Subsection (6) because of a fraud or misrepresentation that relates to health status.

(7) For purposes of this section, a reference to "plan sponsor" includes a reference to the employer:

(a) with respect to coverage provided to an employer member of the association; and

(b) if the small employer health benefit plan is made available by a covered carrier in the

employer market only through:

(i) an association;

(ii) a trust; or

(iii) a discretionary group.

(8) A covered carrier may modify a small employer health benefit plan only:

(a) at the time of coverage renewal; and

(b) if the modification is effective uniformly among all plans with that product.

Section 7. Section **31A-30-107.3** is amended to read:

31A-30-107.3. Discontinuance and nonrenewal limitations and conditions.

(1) (a) A carrier that elects to discontinue offering a health benefit plan under Subsection 31A-30-107(3)(e) or 31A-30-107.1(3)(e) is prohibited from writing new business:

(i) in the small employer and individual market in this state; and

(ii) for a period of five years beginning on the date of discontinuation of the last coverage that is discontinued.

(b) The prohibition described in Subsection (1)(a) may be waived if the commissioner finds that waiver is in the public interest:

(i) to promote competition; or

(ii) to resolve inequity in the marketplace.

(2) (a) If the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool as set forth under Title 31A, Chapter 29, is dissolved or discontinued, or if enrollment is capped or suspended, an individual carrier:

(i) may elect to discontinue offering new individual health benefit plans, except to HIPAA eligibles, but must keep existing individual health benefit plans in effect, except those individual plans that are not renewed under the provisions of Subsection 31A-30-107(2) or 31A-30-107.1(2);

(ii) may elect to continue to offer new individual and small employer health benefit plans; or

(iii) may elect to discontinue all of the covered carrier's health benefit plans in the individual or small group market under the provisions of Subsection 31A-30-107(3)(e) or

31A-30-107.1(3)(e).

(b) A carrier that makes an election under Subsection (2)(a)(i):

(i) is prohibited from writing new business:

(A) in the individual market in this state; and

(B) for a period of five years beginning on the date of discontinuation;

(ii) may continue to write new business in the small employer market; and

(iii) must provide written notice of the election under Subsection (2)(a)(i) within two calendar days of the election to the Utah Insurance Department.

(c) The prohibition described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) may be waived if the commissioner finds that waiver is in the public interest:

(i) to promote competition; or

(ii) to resolve inequity in the marketplace.

(d) A carrier that makes an election under Subsection (2)(a)(iii) is subject to the provisions of Subsection (1).

[~~(2)~~] (3) If a carrier is doing business in one established geographic service area of the state, Sections 31A-30-107 and 31A-30-107.1 apply only to the carrier's operations in that geographic service area.

[~~(3)~~] (4) If a small employer employs less than two employees, a carrier may not discontinue or not renew the health benefit plan until the first renewal date following the beginning of a new plan year, even if the carrier knows as of the beginning of the plan year that the employer no longer has at least two current employees.

Section 8. Section **31A-30-108** is amended to read:

31A-30-108. Eligibility for small employer and individual market.

(1) (a) Small employer carriers shall accept residents for small group coverage as set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, P.L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1962, Sec. 2701(f) and 2711(a).

(b) Individual carriers shall accept residents for individual coverage pursuant:

(i) to P.L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1979, Sec. 2741(a)-(b); and

(ii) Subsection (3).

(2) (a) Small employer carriers shall offer to accept all eligible employees and their dependents at the same level of benefits under any health benefit plan provided to a small employer.

(b) Small employer carriers may:

(i) request a small employer to submit a copy of the small employer's quarterly income tax withholdings to determine whether the employees for whom coverage is provided or requested are bona fide employees of the small employer; and

(ii) deny or terminate coverage if the small employer refuses to provide documentation requested under Subsection (2)(b)(i).

(3) Except as provided in [~~Subsection~~] Subsections (5) and (6) and Section 31A-30-110, individual carriers shall accept for coverage individuals to whom all of the following conditions apply:

(a) the individual is not covered or eligible for coverage:

(i) (A) as an employee of an employer;

(B) as a member of an association; or

(C) as a member of any other group; and

(ii) under:

(A) a health benefit plan; or

(B) a self-insured arrangement that provides coverage similar to that provided by a health benefit plan as defined in Section 31A-1-301;

(b) the individual is not covered and is not eligible for coverage under any public health benefits arrangement including:

(i) the Medicare program established under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act;

(ii) the Medicaid program established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act;

(iii) any act of Congress or law of this or any other state that provides benefits comparable to the benefits provided under this chapter; or

(iv) coverage under the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act created in Chapter 29,

Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act;

(c) unless the maximum benefit has been reached the individual is not covered or eligible for coverage under any:

(i) Medicare supplement policy;

(ii) conversion option;

(iii) continuation or extension under COBRA; or

(iv) state extension;

(d) the individual has not terminated or declined coverage described in Subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c) within 93 days of application for coverage, unless the individual is eligible for individual coverage under P.L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1979, Sec. 2741(b), in which case, the requirement of this Subsection (3)(d) does not apply; and

(e) the individual is certified as ineligible for the Health Insurance Pool if:

(i) the individual applies for coverage with the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool within 30 days after being rejected or refused coverage by the covered carrier and reapplies for coverage with that covered carrier within 30 days after the date of issuance of a certificate under Subsection 31A-29-111(4)(c); or

(ii) the individual applies for coverage with any individual carrier within 45 days after:

(A) notice of cancellation of coverage under Subsection 31A-29-115(1); or

(B) the date of issuance of a certificate under Subsection 31A-29-111(4)(c) if the individual applied first for coverage with the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool.

(4) (a) If coverage is obtained under Subsection (3)(e)(i) and the required premium is paid, the effective date of coverage shall be the first day of the month following the individual's submission of a completed insurance application to that covered carrier.

(b) If coverage is obtained under Subsection (3)(e)(ii) and the required premium is paid, the effective date of coverage shall be the day following the:

(i) cancellation of coverage under Subsection 31A-29-115(1); or

(ii) submission of a completed insurance application to the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool.

(5) (a) An individual carrier is not required to accept individuals for coverage under Subsection (3) if the carrier issues no new individual policies in the state after July 1, 1997.

(b) A carrier described in Subsection (5)(a) may not issue new individual policies in the state for five years from July 1, 1997.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (5)(b), a carrier may request permission to issue new policies after July 1, 1999, which may only be granted if:

(i) the carrier accepts uninsurables as is required of a carrier entering the market under Subsection 31A-30-110; and

(ii) the commissioner finds that the carrier's issuance of new individual policies:

(A) is in the best interests of the state; and

(B) does not provide an unfair advantage to the carrier.

(6) (a) If the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool as set forth under Title 31A, Chapter 29, is dissolved or discontinued, or if enrollment is capped or suspended, an individual carrier may decline to accept individuals applying for individual enrollment, other than individuals applying for coverage as set forth in P.L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1979, Sec. 2741 (a)-(b).

(b) Within two calendar days of taking action under Subsection (6)(a), an individual carrier will provide written notice to the Utah Insurance Department.

[~~(6)~~] (7) (a) If a small employer carrier offers health benefit plans to small employers through a network plan, the small employer carrier may:

(i) limit the employers that may apply for the coverage to those employers with eligible employees who live, reside, or work in the service area for the network plan; and

(ii) within the service area of the network plan, deny coverage to an employer if the small employer carrier has demonstrated to the commissioner that the small employer carrier:

(A) will not have the capacity to deliver services adequately to enrollees of any additional groups because of the small employer carrier's obligations to existing group contract holders and enrollees; and

(B) applies this section uniformly to all employers without regard to:

(I) the claims experience of an employer, an employer's employee, or a dependent of an

employee; or

(II) any health status-related factor relating to an employee or dependent of an employee.

(b) (i) A small employer carrier that denies a health benefit product to an employer in any service area in accordance with this section may not offer coverage in the small employer market within the service area to any employer for a period of 180 days after the date the coverage is denied.

(ii) This Subsection [~~(6)~~] (7)(b) does not:

(A) limit the small employer carrier's ability to renew coverage that is in force; or

(B) relieve the small employer carrier of the responsibility to renew coverage that is in force.

(c) Coverage offered within a service area after the 180-day period specified in Subsection [~~(6)~~] (7)(b) is subject to the requirements of this section.

Section 9. **Repealer.**

This bill repeals:

Section **31A-30-106.6, Individual rates.**

Section 10. **Effective date.**

If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah Constitution Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.