

2005 Assembly Bill 926

Date of enactment: **March 29, 2006**

Date of publication\*: **April 12, 2006**

# 2005 WISCONSIN ACT 231

AN ACT *to renumber* 635.02 (7); *to amend* 185.99 (2) (b), 185.99 (2) (c) 2., 185.99 (4) (a) (intro.) and 185.99 (4) (b); and *to create* 185.99 (4) (c) and 635.02 (7) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** group health care plans offered by health benefit purchasing cooperatives.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 185.99 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

185.99 (2) (b) The purpose of a health benefit purchasing cooperative is to provide health care benefits for the individuals specified in sub. (4) (a) 1. to 3., under a single group health care policy or plan through a contract with between the health benefit purchasing cooperative and an insurer authorized to do business in this state in one or more lines of insurance that includes health insurance.

**SECTION 2.** 185.99 (2) (c) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

185.99 (2) (c) 2. All members ~~purchase~~ receive their health care benefits ~~from the same insurer~~ under the group health care policy or plan negotiated under sub. (4) (a).

**SECTION 3.** 185.99 (4) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

185.99 (4) (a) (intro.) The health care benefits offered by a health benefit purchasing cooperative shall be negotiated between the health benefit purchasing cooperative and the insurer and shall be offered in a

single group health care policy or plan. The insurer must offer coverage under the group health care policy or plan to all of the following:

**SECTION 4.** 185.99 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

185.99 (4) (b) The contract between the ~~members of a~~ health benefit purchasing cooperative and an insurer shall be for a term of 3 years. Upon enrollment in the insurer's group health benefit care policy or plan, each member shall pay to the health benefit purchasing cooperative an amount determined by the health benefit purchasing cooperative that is not less than the member's applicable premium for the 36th month of coverage under the contract. If a member withdraws from the health benefit purchasing cooperative before the end of the contract term, the health benefit purchasing cooperative may retain, as a penalty, an amount specified by the health benefit purchasing cooperative that is not less than the premium that the member paid for the 36th month of coverage.

**SECTION 5.** 185.99 (4) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

185.99 (4) (c) An insurer that contracts under this section with a health benefit purchasing cooperative that provides health care benefits for more than 50 individuals who are members or employees of one or more members

\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 2003-04 : Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].

**2005 Wisconsin Act 231**

**2005 Assembly Bill 926**

is not a small employer insurer, as defined in s. 635.02 (8), with respect to the contract between the insurer and the health benefit purchasing cooperative.

**SECTION 6.** 635.02 (7) of the statutes is renumbered 635.02 (7) (a).

**SECTION 7.** 635.02 (7) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

635.02 (7) (b) Notwithstanding par. (a), “small employer” does not include any of the following:

1. A health benefit purchasing cooperative under s. 185.99 that provides health care benefits for more than 50 individuals who are members or employees of one or more members.
  2. A member of a cooperative specified in subd. 1.
-