

1 AN ACT relating to coverage for hepatitis C virus infection.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 17A OF KRS CHAPTER 304
4 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) (a) All health benefit plans shall provide coverage for:

6 1. Testing of hepatitis C virus infection in pregnant women; and

7 2. Treatment of hepatitis C virus infection in postpartum women.

8 (b) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the coverage required
9 under this section shall not be subject to cost sharing, including
10 copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles.

11 (2) If the application of the requirements of subsection (1)(b) of this section would be
12 the sole cause of a health benefit plan's failure to qualify as a Health Savings
13 Account-qualified High Deductible Health Plan under 26 U.S.C. sec. 223, as
14 amended, then the requirements of subsection (1)(b) of this section shall not
15 apply to that health benefit plan until the minimum deductible has been satisfied.

16 ➔Section 2. KRS 205.522 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) With respect to the administration and provision of Medicaid benefits pursuant to
18 this chapter, the Department for Medicaid Services, ~~and~~ any managed care
19 organization contracted to provide Medicaid benefits pursuant to this chapter, and
20 the state's medical assistance program shall be subject to, and comply with, the
21 following, as applicable:~~[provisions of]~~

22 (a) KRS 304.17A-163;~~[]~~

23 (b) ~~KRS~~ 304.17A-1631;~~[]~~

24 (c) ~~KRS~~ 304.17A-167;~~[]~~

25 (d) ~~KRS~~ 304.17A-235;~~[]~~

26 (e) ~~KRS~~ 304.17A-257;~~[]~~

27 (f) ~~KRS~~ 304.17A-259;~~[]~~

1 ~~(g) KRS 304.17A-263;~~

2 ~~(h) KRS 304.17A-515;~~

3 ~~(i) KRS 304.17A-580;~~

4 ~~(j) KRS 304.17A-600, 304.17A-603, and 304.17A-607;~~

5 ~~(k) KRS 304.17A-740 to 304.17A-743; and, as applicable~~

6 ~~(l) Section 1 of this Act.~~

7 (2) A managed care organization contracted to provide Medicaid benefits pursuant to
8 this chapter shall comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 304.17A-732.

9 ➔Section 3. KRS 205.6485 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) As used in this section, "KCHIP" means the Kentucky Children's Health
11 Insurance Program.

12 (2) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall:

13 (a) Prepare a state child health plan, known as KCHIP, meeting the requirements
14 of Title XXI of the Federal Social Security Act, for submission to the
15 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services
16 within such time as will permit the state to receive the maximum amounts of
17 federal matching funds available under Title XXI; ~~and The cabinet shall,~~

18 (b) By administrative regulation promulgated in accordance with KRS Chapter
19 13A, establish the following:

20 ~~1.(a)~~ The eligibility criteria for children covered by KCHIP, which
21 shall include a provision that~~the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance~~
22 ~~Program. However,~~ no person eligible for services under Title XIX of
23 the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. secs. 1396 to 1396v, as amended,
24 shall be eligible for services under KCHIP,~~the Kentucky Children's~~
25 ~~Health Insurance Program~~ except to the extent that Title XIX coverage
26 is expanded by KRS 205.6481 to 205.6495 and KRS 304.17A-340;

27 ~~2.(b)~~ The schedule of benefits to be covered by KCHIP~~the Kentucky~~

1 Children's Health Insurance Program], which shall ~~include preventive~~
2 ~~services, vision services including glasses, and dental services including~~
3 ~~at least sealants, extractions, and fillings, and which shall~~

4 **a.** Be at least equivalent to one (1) of the following:

5 ~~i.~~^[1.] The standard Blue Cross/Blue Shield preferred provider
6 option under the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan
7 established by 5 U.S.C. sec. 8903(1);

8 ~~ii.~~^[2.] A mid-range health benefit coverage plan that is offered and
9 generally available to state employees; or

10 ~~iii.~~^[3.] Health insurance coverage offered by a health
11 maintenance organization that has the largest insured
12 commercial, non-Medicaid enrollment of covered lives in the
13 state;

14 **and**

15 **b. Comply with subsection (6) of this section;**

16 ~~3.~~^[c.] The premium contribution per family ~~for~~^[of] health insurance
17 coverage available under **KCHIP, which**~~the Kentucky Children's~~
18 ~~Health Insurance Program with provisions for the payment of premium~~
19 ~~contributions by families of children eligible for coverage by the~~
20 ~~program based upon a sliding scale relating to family income. Premium~~
21 ~~contributions] shall be based;~~

22 **a.** On a six (6) month period; **and**

23 **b. Upon a sliding scale relating to family income,** not to exceed:

24 ~~i.~~^[1.] Ten dollars (\$10), to be paid by a family with income
25 between one hundred percent (100%) to one hundred thirty-
26 three percent (133%) of the federal poverty level;

27 ~~ii.~~^[2.] Twenty dollars (\$20), to be paid by a family with income

1 between one hundred thirty-four percent (134%) to one
2 hundred forty-nine percent (149%) of the federal poverty
3 level; and

4 iii.~~[3.]~~ One hundred twenty dollars (\$120), to be paid by a
5 family with income between one hundred fifty percent
6 (150%) to two hundred percent (200%) of the federal
7 poverty level, and which may be made on a partial payment
8 plan of twenty dollars (\$20) per month or sixty dollars (\$60)
9 per quarter;

10 4.~~[(d)]~~ There shall be no copayments for services provided under
11 KCHIP~~[the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program]~~; and

12 5. a.~~[(e)]~~ The criteria for health services providers and insurers
13 wishing to contract with the Commonwealth to provide ~~the~~
14 ~~children's health insurance~~ coverage under KCHIP.

15 b. ~~However,~~ The cabinet shall provide, in any contracting process
16 for coverage of~~the~~ preventive services~~health insurance~~
17 ~~program~~, the opportunity for a public health department to bid on
18 preventive health services to eligible children within the public
19 health department's service area. A public health department shall
20 not be disqualified from bidding because the department does not
21 currently offer all the services required by ~~paragraph (b) of~~ this
22 section~~subsection~~. The criteria shall be set forth in administrative
23 regulations under KRS Chapter 13A and shall maximize
24 competition among the providers and insurers. The ~~Cabinet for~~
25 ~~Finance and Administration~~ Cabinet shall provide oversight over
26 contracting policies and procedures to assure that the number of
27 applicants for contracts is maximized.

1 ~~(3)~~⁽²⁾ Within twelve (12) months of federal approval of the state's Title XXI child
 2 health plan, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall ensure~~assure~~ that a
 3 KCHIP program is available to all eligible children in all regions of the state. If
 4 necessary, in order to meet this assurance, the cabinet shall institute its own
 5 program.

6 ~~(4)~~⁽³⁾ KCHIP recipients shall have direct access without a referral from any
 7 gatekeeper primary care provider to dentists for covered primary dental services
 8 and to optometrists and ophthalmologists for covered primary eye and vision
 9 services.

10 ~~(5)~~⁽⁴⁾ KCHIP~~The Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Plan~~ shall comply with
 11 KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631.

12 **(6) The schedule of benefits required under subsection (2)(b)2. of this section shall**
 13 **include:**

14 **(a) Preventive services;**

15 **(b) Vision services, including glasses;**

16 **(c) Dental services, including sealants, extractions, and fillings; and**

17 **(d) The coverage required under Section 1 of this Act.**

18 ➔Section 4. KRS 164.2871 (Effective January 1, 2025) is amended to read as
 19 follows:

20 (1) The governing board of each state postsecondary educational institution is
 21 authorized to purchase liability insurance for the protection of the individual
 22 members of the governing board, faculty, and staff of such institutions from liability
 23 for acts and omissions committed in the course and scope of the individual's
 24 employment or service. Each institution may purchase the type and amount of
 25 liability coverage deemed to best serve the interest of such institution.

26 (2) All retirement annuity allowances accrued or accruing to any employee of a state
 27 postsecondary educational institution through a retirement program sponsored by

1 the state postsecondary educational institution are hereby exempt from any state,
 2 county, or municipal tax, and shall not be subject to execution, attachment,
 3 garnishment, or any other process whatsoever, nor shall any assignment thereof be
 4 enforceable in any court. Except retirement benefits accrued or accruing to any
 5 employee of a state postsecondary educational institution through a retirement
 6 program sponsored by the state postsecondary educational institution on or after
 7 January 1, 1998, shall be subject to the tax imposed by KRS 141.020, to the extent
 8 provided in KRS 141.010 and 141.0215.

9 (3) Except as provided in KRS Chapter 44, the purchase of liability insurance for
 10 members of governing boards, faculty and staff of institutions of higher education
 11 in this state shall not be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity or any
 12 other immunity or privilege.

13 (4) The governing board of each state postsecondary education institution is authorized
 14 to provide a self-insured employer group health plan to its employees, which plan
 15 shall:

16 (a) Conform to the requirements of Subtitle 32 of KRS Chapter 304; and

17 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, be exempt from
 18 conformity with Subtitle 17A of KRS Chapter 304.

19 (5) A self-insured employer group health plan provided by the governing board of a
 20 state postsecondary education institution to its employees shall comply with:

21 (a) KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631;

22 (b) KRS 304.17A-265;

23 (c) KRS 304.17A-261;~~[and]~~

24 (d) KRS 304.17A-262; **and**

25 **(e) Section 1 of this Act.**

26 ➔Section 5. KRS 18A.225 (Effective January 1, 2025) is amended to read as
 27 follows:

- 1 (1) (a) The term "employee" for purposes of this section means:
- 2 1. Any person, including an elected public official, who is regularly
- 3 employed by any department, office, board, agency, or branch of state
- 4 government; or by a public postsecondary educational institution; or by
- 5 any city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
- 6 government, whose legislative body has opted to participate in the state-
- 7 sponsored health insurance program pursuant to KRS 79.080; and who
- 8 is either a contributing member to any one (1) of the retirement systems
- 9 administered by the state, including but not limited to the Kentucky
- 10 Retirement Systems, County Employees Retirement System, Kentucky
- 11 Teachers' Retirement System, the Legislators' Retirement Plan, or the
- 12 Judicial Retirement Plan; or is receiving a contractual contribution from
- 13 the state toward a retirement plan; or, in the case of a public
- 14 postsecondary education institution, is an individual participating in an
- 15 optional retirement plan authorized by KRS 161.567; or is eligible to
- 16 participate in a retirement plan established by an employer who ceases
- 17 participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System pursuant to
- 18 KRS 61.522 whose employees participated in the health insurance plans
- 19 administered by the Personnel Cabinet prior to the employer's effective
- 20 cessation date in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System;
- 21 2. Any certified or classified employee of a local board of education or a
- 22 public charter school as defined in KRS 160.1590;
- 23 3. Any elected member of a local board of education;
- 24 4. Any person who is a present or future recipient of a retirement
- 25 allowance from the Kentucky Retirement Systems, County Employees
- 26 Retirement System, Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, the
- 27 Legislators' Retirement Plan, the Judicial Retirement Plan, or the

- 1 Kentucky Community and Technical College System's optional
2 retirement plan authorized by KRS 161.567, except that a person who is
3 receiving a retirement allowance and who is age sixty-five (65) or older
4 shall not be included, with the exception of persons covered under KRS
5 61.702(2)(b)3. and 78.5536(2)(b)3., unless he or she is actively
6 employed pursuant to subparagraph 1. of this paragraph; and
- 7 5. Any eligible dependents and beneficiaries of participating employees
8 and retirees who are entitled to participate in the state-sponsored health
9 insurance program;
- 10 (b) The term "health benefit plan" for the purposes of this section means a health
11 benefit plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-005;
- 12 (c) The term "insurer" for the purposes of this section means an insurer as defined
13 in KRS 304.17A-005; and
- 14 (d) The term "managed care plan" for the purposes of this section means a
15 managed care plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-500.
- 16 (2) (a) The secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, upon the
17 recommendation of the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet, shall procure, in
18 compliance with the provisions of KRS 45A.080, 45A.085, and 45A.090,
19 from one (1) or more insurers authorized to do business in this state, a group
20 health benefit plan that may include but not be limited to health maintenance
21 organization (HMO), preferred provider organization (PPO), point of service
22 (POS), and exclusive provider organization (EPO) benefit plans
23 encompassing all or any class or classes of employees. With the exception of
24 employers governed by the provisions of KRS Chapters 16, 18A, and 151B,
25 all employers of any class of employees or former employees shall enter into
26 a contract with the Personnel Cabinet prior to including that group in the state
27 health insurance group. The contracts shall include but not be limited to

1 designating the entity responsible for filing any federal forms, adoption of
2 policies required for proper plan administration, acceptance of the contractual
3 provisions with health insurance carriers or third-party administrators, and
4 adoption of the payment and reimbursement methods necessary for efficient
5 administration of the health insurance program. Health insurance coverage
6 provided to state employees under this section shall, at a minimum, contain
7 the same benefits as provided under Kentucky Kare Standard as of January 1,
8 1994, and shall include a mail-order drug option as provided in subsection
9 (13) of this section. All employees and other persons for whom the health care
10 coverage is provided or made available shall annually be given an option to
11 elect health care coverage through a self-funded plan offered by the
12 Commonwealth or, if a self-funded plan is not available, from a list of
13 coverage options determined by the competitive bid process under the
14 provisions of KRS 45A.080, 45A.085, and 45A.090 and made available
15 during annual open enrollment.

16 (b) The policy or policies shall be approved by the commissioner of insurance
17 and may contain the provisions the commissioner of insurance approves,
18 whether or not otherwise permitted by the insurance laws.

19 (c) Any carrier bidding to offer health care coverage to employees shall agree to
20 provide coverage to all members of the state group, including active
21 employees and retirees and their eligible covered dependents and
22 beneficiaries, within the county or counties specified in its bid. Except as
23 provided in subsection (20) of this section, any carrier bidding to offer health
24 care coverage to employees shall also agree to rate all employees as a single
25 entity, except for those retirees whose former employers insure their active
26 employees outside the state-sponsored health insurance program and as
27 otherwise provided in KRS 61.702(2)(b)3.b. and 78.5536(2)(b)3.b.

- 1 (d) Any carrier bidding to offer health care coverage to employees shall agree to
2 provide enrollment, claims, and utilization data to the Commonwealth in a
3 format specified by the Personnel Cabinet with the understanding that the data
4 shall be owned by the Commonwealth; to provide data in an electronic form
5 and within a time frame specified by the Personnel Cabinet; and to be subject
6 to penalties for noncompliance with data reporting requirements as specified
7 by the Personnel Cabinet. The Personnel Cabinet shall take strict precautions
8 to protect the confidentiality of each individual employee; however,
9 confidentiality assertions shall not relieve a carrier from the requirement of
10 providing stipulated data to the Commonwealth.
- 11 (e) The Personnel Cabinet shall develop the necessary techniques and capabilities
12 for timely analysis of data received from carriers and, to the extent possible,
13 provide in the request-for-proposal specifics relating to data requirements,
14 electronic reporting, and penalties for noncompliance. The Commonwealth
15 shall own the enrollment, claims, and utilization data provided by each carrier
16 and shall develop methods to protect the confidentiality of the individual. The
17 Personnel Cabinet shall include in the October annual report submitted
18 pursuant to the provisions of KRS 18A.226 to the Governor, the General
19 Assembly, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, an analysis of the
20 financial stability of the program, which shall include but not be limited to
21 loss ratios, methods of risk adjustment, measurements of carrier quality of
22 service, prescription coverage and cost management, and statutorily required
23 mandates. If state self-insurance was available as a carrier option, the report
24 also shall provide a detailed financial analysis of the self-insurance fund
25 including but not limited to loss ratios, reserves, and reinsurance agreements.
- 26 (f) If any agency participating in the state-sponsored employee health insurance
27 program for its active employees terminates participation and there is a state

1 appropriation for the employer's contribution for active employees' health
2 insurance coverage, then neither the agency nor the employees shall receive
3 the state-funded contribution after termination from the state-sponsored
4 employee health insurance program.

5 (g) Any funds in flexible spending accounts that remain after all reimbursements
6 have been processed shall be transferred to the credit of the state-sponsored
7 health insurance plan's appropriation account.

8 (h) Each entity participating in the state-sponsored health insurance program shall
9 provide an amount at least equal to the state contribution rate for the employer
10 portion of the health insurance premium. For any participating entity that used
11 the state payroll system, the employer contribution amount shall be equal to
12 but not greater than the state contribution rate.

13 (3) The premiums may be paid by the policyholder:

14 (a) Wholly from funds contributed by the employee, by payroll deduction or
15 otherwise;

16 (b) Wholly from funds contributed by any department, board, agency, public
17 postsecondary education institution, or branch of state, city, urban-county,
18 charter county, county, or consolidated local government; or

19 (c) Partly from each, except that any premium due for health care coverage or
20 dental coverage, if any, in excess of the premium amount contributed by any
21 department, board, agency, postsecondary education institution, or branch of
22 state, city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
23 government for any other health care coverage shall be paid by the employee.

24 (4) If an employee moves his or her place of residence or employment out of the
25 service area of an insurer offering a managed health care plan, under which he or
26 she has elected coverage, into either the service area of another managed health care
27 plan or into an area of the Commonwealth not within a managed health care plan

1 service area, the employee shall be given an option, at the time of the move or
2 transfer, to change his or her coverage to another health benefit plan.

3 (5) No payment of premium by any department, board, agency, public postsecondary
4 educational institution, or branch of state, city, urban-county, charter county,
5 county, or consolidated local government shall constitute compensation to an
6 insured employee for the purposes of any statute fixing or limiting the
7 compensation of such an employee. Any premium or other expense incurred by any
8 department, board, agency, public postsecondary educational institution, or branch
9 of state, city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
10 government shall be considered a proper cost of administration.

11 (6) The policy or policies may contain the provisions with respect to the class or classes
12 of employees covered, amounts of insurance or coverage for designated classes or
13 groups of employees, policy options, terms of eligibility, and continuation of
14 insurance or coverage after retirement.

15 (7) Group rates under this section shall be made available to the disabled child of an
16 employee regardless of the child's age if the entire premium for the disabled child's
17 coverage is paid by the state employee. A child shall be considered disabled if he or
18 she has been determined to be eligible for federal Social Security disability benefits.

19 (8) The health care contract or contracts for employees shall be entered into for a
20 period of not less than one (1) year.

21 (9) The secretary shall appoint thirty-two (32) persons to an Advisory Committee of
22 State Health Insurance Subscribers to advise the secretary or the secretary's
23 designee regarding the state-sponsored health insurance program for employees.
24 The secretary shall appoint, from a list of names submitted by appointing
25 authorities, members representing school districts from each of the seven (7)
26 Supreme Court districts, members representing state government from each of the
27 seven (7) Supreme Court districts, two (2) members representing retirees under age

1 sixty-five (65), one (1) member representing local health departments, two (2)
2 members representing the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, and three (3)
3 members at large. The secretary shall also appoint two (2) members from a list of
4 five (5) names submitted by the Kentucky Education Association, two (2) members
5 from a list of five (5) names submitted by the largest state employee organization of
6 nonschool state employees, two (2) members from a list of five (5) names submitted
7 by the Kentucky Association of Counties, two (2) members from a list of five (5)
8 names submitted by the Kentucky League of Cities, and two (2) members from a
9 list of names consisting of five (5) names submitted by each state employee
10 organization that has two thousand (2,000) or more members on state payroll
11 deduction. The advisory committee shall be appointed in January of each year and
12 shall meet quarterly.

13 (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the policy or policies
14 provided to employees pursuant to this section shall not provide coverage for
15 obtaining or performing an abortion, nor shall any state funds be used for the
16 purpose of obtaining or performing an abortion on behalf of employees or their
17 dependents.

18 (11) Interruption of an established treatment regime with maintenance drugs shall be
19 grounds for an insured to appeal a formulary change through the established appeal
20 procedures approved by the Department of Insurance, if the physician supervising
21 the treatment certifies that the change is not in the best interests of the patient.

22 (12) Any employee who is eligible for and elects to participate in the state health
23 insurance program as a retiree, or the spouse or beneficiary of a retiree, under any
24 one (1) of the state-sponsored retirement systems shall not be eligible to receive the
25 state health insurance contribution toward health care coverage as a result of any
26 other employment for which there is a public employer contribution. This does not
27 preclude a retiree and an active employee spouse from using both contributions to

1 the extent needed for purchase of one (1) state sponsored health insurance policy
2 for that plan year.

3 (13) (a) The policies of health insurance coverage procured under subsection (2) of
4 this section shall include a mail-order drug option for maintenance drugs for
5 state employees. Maintenance drugs may be dispensed by mail order in
6 accordance with Kentucky law.

7 (b) A health insurer shall not discriminate against any retail pharmacy located
8 within the geographic coverage area of the health benefit plan and that meets
9 the terms and conditions for participation established by the insurer, including
10 price, dispensing fee, and copay requirements of a mail-order option. The
11 retail pharmacy shall not be required to dispense by mail.

12 (c) The mail-order option shall not permit the dispensing of a controlled
13 substance classified in Schedule II.

14 (14) The policy or policies provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to
15 this section shall provide coverage for obtaining a hearing aid and acquiring hearing
16 aid-related services for insured individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, subject
17 to a cap of one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400) every thirty-six (36) months
18 pursuant to KRS 304.17A-132.

19 (15) Any policy provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to this section
20 shall provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders
21 consistent with KRS 304.17A-142.

22 (16) Any policy provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to this section
23 shall provide coverage for obtaining amino acid-based elemental formula pursuant
24 to KRS 304.17A-258.

25 (17) If a state employee's residence and place of employment are in the same county,
26 and if the hospital located within that county does not offer surgical services,
27 intensive care services, obstetrical services, level II neonatal services, diagnostic

1 cardiac catheterization services, and magnetic resonance imaging services, the
2 employee may select a plan available in a contiguous county that does provide
3 those services, and the state contribution for the plan shall be the amount available
4 in the county where the plan selected is located.

5 (18) If a state employee's residence and place of employment are each located in
6 counties in which the hospitals do not offer surgical services, intensive care
7 services, obstetrical services, level II neonatal services, diagnostic cardiac
8 catheterization services, and magnetic resonance imaging services, the employee
9 may select a plan available in a county contiguous to the county of residence that
10 does provide those services, and the state contribution for the plan shall be the
11 amount available in the county where the plan selected is located.

12 (19) The Personnel Cabinet is encouraged to study whether it is fair and reasonable and
13 in the best interests of the state group to allow any carrier bidding to offer health
14 care coverage under this section to submit bids that may vary county by county or
15 by larger geographic areas.

16 (20) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the bid for proposals for health
17 insurance coverage for calendar year 2004 shall include a bid scenario that reflects
18 the statewide rating structure provided in calendar year 2003 and a bid scenario that
19 allows for a regional rating structure that allows carriers to submit bids that may
20 vary by region for a given product offering as described in this subsection:

21 (a) The regional rating bid scenario shall not include a request for bid on a
22 statewide option;

23 (b) The Personnel Cabinet shall divide the state into geographical regions which
24 shall be the same as the partnership regions designated by the Department for
25 Medicaid Services for purposes of the Kentucky Health Care Partnership
26 Program established pursuant to 907 KAR 1:705;

27 (c) The request for proposal shall require a carrier's bid to include every county

- 1 within the region or regions for which the bid is submitted and include but not
2 be restricted to a preferred provider organization (PPO) option;
- 3 (d) If the Personnel Cabinet accepts a carrier's bid, the cabinet shall award the
4 carrier all of the counties included in its bid within the region. If the Personnel
5 Cabinet deems the bids submitted in accordance with this subsection to be in
6 the best interests of state employees in a region, the cabinet may award the
7 contract for that region to no more than two (2) carriers; and
- 8 (e) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the Personnel Cabinet from including
9 other requirements or criteria in the request for proposal.
- 10 (21) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed on or
11 after July 12, 2006, to public employees pursuant to this section which provides
12 coverage for services rendered by a physician or osteopath duly licensed under KRS
13 Chapter 311 that are within the scope of practice of an optometrist duly licensed
14 under the provisions of KRS Chapter 320 shall provide the same payment of
15 coverage to optometrists as allowed for those services rendered by physicians or
16 osteopaths.
- 17 (22) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed to
18 public employees pursuant to this section shall comply with:
- 19 (a) KRS 304.12-237;
- 20 (b) KRS 304.17A-270 and 304.17A-525;
- 21 (c) KRS 304.17A-600 to 304.17A-633;
- 22 (d) KRS 205.593;
- 23 (e) KRS 304.17A-700 to 304.17A-730;
- 24 (f) KRS 304.14-135;
- 25 (g) KRS 304.17A-580 and 304.17A-641;
- 26 (h) KRS 304.99-123;
- 27 (i) KRS 304.17A-138;

- 1 (j) KRS 304.17A-148;
- 2 (k) KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631;
- 3 (l) KRS 304.17A-265;
- 4 (m) KRS 304.17A-261;
- 5 (n) KRS 304.17A-262;~~[and]~~
- 6 (o) **Section 1 of this Act; and**
- 7 **(p)** Administrative regulations promulgated pursuant to statutes listed in this
- 8 subsection.

9 ➔Section 6. Sections 1, 4, and 5 of this Act apply to health benefit plans issued or
 10 renewed on or after January 1, 2025.

11 ➔Section 7. If the Cabinet for Health and Family Services determines that a
 12 waiver or any other authorization from a federal agency is necessary to implement
 13 Section 2 or 3 of this Act for any reason, including the loss of federal funds, the cabinet
 14 shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this section, request the waiver or
 15 authorization, and may only delay implementation of those provisions for which a waiver
 16 or authorization was deemed necessary until the waiver or authorization is granted.

17 ➔Section 8. Sections 1 to 6 of this Act take effect January 1, 2025.