

STATE OF NEW YORK

3764

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 13, 2019

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law and the public health law, in relation to notification of termination of group health insurance

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 3221 of the insurance law is
2 amended by adding a new paragraph 17 to read as follows:

3 (17) (A) That the insurer shall require the policyholder to provide it
4 with the names and residential addresses of all individuals who because
5 of their employee or membership status are certificate holders under
6 such policy, and to update such information at least annually; and in
7 the event the insurer terminates such policy, shall give each certifi-
8 cate holder at least thirty days prior written notice of termination of
9 coverage, by mailing such notice to the last provided residential
10 address for such certificate holder; provided, however, that such notice
11 shall not be required where the policyholder has: (1) provided such
12 certificate holder at least thirty days prior written notice of the
13 termination of coverage, by mailing such notice to the certificate hold-
14 er's last known residential address, or, if the certificate holder is
15 represented by a labor organization, provided the representative of such
16 labor organization with such written notice, or (2) has contracted with
17 another insurer to provide similar coverage for the same certificate
18 holders, and has provided certificate holders with the name of the
19 substituted insurer. No termination of a group policy or contract of
20 health, or accident and health insurance shall become effective until
21 thirty days after the mailing of such notice of termination contract, if
22 required.

23 (B) The insurer shall include with such notice a complete statement of
24 the rights of the certificate holder under the termination of the policy
25 as to coverage for illness, accident and treatment occurring prior to

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 and subsequent to the termination date, and such other rights of certifi-
2 cate holders as may exist under the contract or policy or pursuant to
3 paragraph one of subsection (e) of this section.

4 (C) Upon written request, the holder of the policy being terminated
5 shall reimburse the insurer for all reasonable and necessary costs asso-
6 ciated with providing such notice to certificate holders.

7 § 2. Section 4305 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new
8 subsection (n) to read as follows:

9 (n) (1) A group contract issued pursuant to this section shall contain
10 a provision that the insurer shall require the group contract holder to
11 provide it with the names and residential addresses of all individuals
12 who because of their employee or membership status are certificate hold-
13 ers under such policy, and to update such information at least annually;
14 and in the event the insurer terminates such policy, shall give each
15 certificate holder at least thirty days prior written notice of termi-
16 nation of coverage, by mailing such notice to the last provided residen-
17 tial address for such certificate holder; provided, however, that such
18 notice shall not be required where the group policyholder has: (A)
19 provided such certificate holders at least thirty days prior written
20 notice of the termination of coverage, by mailing such notice to such
21 certificate holder's last known residential address, or, if such certifi-
22 cate holder is represented by a labor organization, provided the repre-
23 sentative of such labor organization with such written notice, or (B)
24 has contracted with another insurer to provide similar coverage for the
25 same certificate holders, and has provided such certificate holders with
26 the name of the substituted insurer. No termination of a group policy or
27 contract of health, or accident and health insurance shall become effec-
28 tive until thirty days after the mailing of such notice of termination
29 contract, if required.

30 (2) The insurer shall include with such notice a complete statement of
31 the rights of the certificate holder under the termination of the policy
32 as to coverage for illness, accident and treatment occurring prior to
33 and subsequent to the termination date, and such other rights of certifi-
34 cate holders as may exist under the contract or policy or pursuant to
35 paragraph one of subsection (d) of this section.

36 (3) Upon written request, the holder of the group policy being termi-
37 nated shall reimburse the insurer for all reasonable and necessary costs
38 associated with providing such notice to certificate holders.

39 § 3. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 4407-a
40 to read as follows:

41 § 4407-a. Group contracts; notification of cancellation requirements.

42 1. A health maintenance organization shall require a policyholder to
43 provide it with the names and residential addresses of all individuals
44 who because of their employee or membership status are members in such
45 health maintenance organization, and to update such information at least
46 annually; and in the event the health maintenance organization termi-
47 nates such policy, shall give each such member at least thirty days
48 prior written notice of termination of coverage, by mailing such notice
49 to the last provided residential address for such member; provided,
50 however, that such notice shall not be required where the policyholder
51 has: (a) provided such member at least thirty days prior written notice
52 of the termination of coverage, by mailing such notice to such member's
53 last known residential address, or, if the member is represented by a
54 labor organization, provided the representative of such labor organiza-
55 tion with such written notice, or (b) has contracted with another health
56 maintenance organization or insurer to provide similar coverage for the

1 same members, and has provided members with the name of the substituted
2 health maintenance organization or insurer. No termination of a group
3 policy or contract of health, or accident and health insurance shall
4 become effective until thirty days after the mailing of such notice of
5 termination contract, if required.

6 2. The health maintenance organization shall include with such notice
7 a complete statement of the rights of the member under the termination
8 of the policy as to coverage for illness, accident and treatment occur-
9 ring prior to and subsequent to the termination date, and such other
10 rights of members as may exist under the contract or policy or pursuant
11 to this article and article forty-three of the insurance law.

12 3. Upon written request, the holder of the policy being terminated
13 shall reimburse the health maintenance organization for all reasonable
14 and necessary costs associated with providing such notice to members.

15 § 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
16 have become a law.