*** § 2999-f. Authorizations.** 1. The commissioner may contract with projects and provide grants to support projects to the extent funds are appropriated for such purpose.

2. Upon the request of a sponsoring health plan, the commissioner may authorize the participation of the Medicaid, family health plus and child health plus programs in one or more demonstration projects, provided that enrollee participation shall be on a voluntary basis.

3. The commissioner may contract with entities possessing expertise deemed necessary to assist in the evaluation of the metrics developed by the workgroup and individual project designs to the extent funds are appropriated for such purpose.

4. The commissioner shall report to the governor and the legislature on or before March first, two thousand six, on the results of the commissioner's workgroup, and shall report within three years of the effective date of this title, and again six months prior to the expiration date of this title, on the number of demonstration projects chosen and on the operation and effectiveness of each demonstration undertaken, together with any recommendations the commissioner deems appropriate.

5. Nothing in this title shall:

(a) diminish or waive any right, remedy or benefit of any health care provider, consumer, enrollee, or recipient under the provisions of this chapter, the insurance law or the social services law; or

(b) diminish, waive, or provide any exemption from any provision of the anti-trust or trade regulation laws of the state or the United States; or

(c) diminish, waive or supersede any provision of an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

6. This title shall expire on April first, two thousand eleven.

* NB Expired April 1, 2011