

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2632

By: Echols, McEntire, Roberts  
(Dustin), Sanders,  
Patzkowsky, West (Josh),  
Townley, Pae, Boles,  
Hasenbeck, Davis, Roberts  
(Sean), Phillips, Talley,  
Stark, Roe, McDugle,  
Vancuren, Virgin and Bell  
of the House

and

McCortney of the Senate

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10 An Act relating to insurance; creating the Patient's  
11 Right to Pharmacy Choice Act; declaring purpose;  
12 defining terms; providing for compliance standards  
13 for retail pharmacy networks; providing for review of  
14 retail pharmacy network access; prohibiting certain  
15 actions; prohibiting certain restrictions; requiring  
16 a pharmacy benefits manager to establish and maintain  
17 an electronic claim inquiry processing system;  
18 requiring health insurer to monitor compliance;  
19 requiring specific uses for certain compensation;  
20 requiring health insurer file annual report;  
21 directing a health insurer's pharmacy and  
22 therapeutics committee to establish a formulary;  
23 prohibiting conflicts of interest; providing  
24 conditions for persons to serve on pharmacy and  
therapeutics committee; prohibiting compensation;  
authorizing Insurance Commissioner investigative  
powers; establishing a Right to Patient Choice  
Advisory Committee; providing the Right to Patient  
Choice Advisory Committee with certain powers;  
providing for composition and appointment of the  
Right to Patient Choice Advisory Committee; providing  
term length; providing hearings be held in accordance  
with the Administrative Procedures Act; providing for  
confidentiality; providing exception; providing for  
codification; and providing an effective date.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

2 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
3 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6958 of Title 36, unless there  
4 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Patient's Right  
6 to Pharmacy Choice Act".

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6959 of Title 36, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 The purpose of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act is to  
11 establish minimum and uniform access to a provider and standards and  
12 prohibitions on restrictions of a patient's right to choose a  
13 pharmacy provider.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6960 of Title 36, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 For purposes of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act:

18 1. "Benefit plan" means any health benefit plan offered by a  
19 health insurance carrier, health maintenance organization, managed  
20 care entity, or any other entity that provides prescription drug  
21 benefits to covered individuals, including workers' compensation  
22 programs, state-administered health benefit plans and self-funded  
23 benefit programs;

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1       2. "Mail-order pharmacy" means a pharmacy licensed by this  
2 state that primarily dispenses and delivers covered drugs via common  
3 carrier;

4       3. "Pharmacy benefits manager" or "PBM" means a person,  
5 business or other entity that performs pharmacy benefits management.  
6 The term includes a person or entity acting for a PBM in a  
7 contractual or employment relationship in the performance of  
8 pharmacy benefits management for a managed-care company, nonprofit  
9 hospital, medical service organization, insurance company, third-  
10 party payor or a health program administered by a department of this  
11 state;

12       4. "Pharmacy and therapeutics committee" or "P&T committee"  
13 means a committee at a hospital or a health insurance plan that  
14 decides which drugs will appear on that entity's drug formulary;

15       5. "Retail pharmacy network" means retail pharmacy providers  
16 contracted with the entity providing or administering a benefit plan  
17 in which the pharmacy primarily fills and sells prescriptions via a  
18 retail, storefront location;

19       6. "Rural service area" means a five-digit ZIP code in which  
20 the population density is less than one thousand (1,000) individuals  
21 per square mile;

22       7. "Suburban service area" means a five-digit ZIP code in which  
23 the population density is between one thousand (1,000) and three  
24 thousand (3,000) individuals per square mile; and

1 8. "Urban service area" means a five-digit ZIP code in which  
2 the population density is greater than three thousand (3,000)  
3 individuals per square mile.

4 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6961 of Title 36, unless there  
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A. Retail pharmacy networks shall comply with the following  
8 access standards:

9 1. At least ninety percent (90%) of covered individuals in the  
10 benefit plan's urban service area live within two (2) miles of a  
11 retail pharmacy participating in the benefit plan's retail pharmacy  
12 network;

13 2. At least ninety percent (90%) of covered individuals in the  
14 benefit plan's urban service area live within five (5) miles of a  
15 retail pharmacy designated as a preferred participating pharmacy in  
16 the benefit plan's retail pharmacy network;

17 3. At least ninety percent (90%) of covered individuals in the  
18 benefit plan's suburban service area live within five (5) miles of a  
19 retail pharmacy participating in the benefit plan's retail pharmacy  
20 network;

21 4. At least ninety percent (90%) of covered individuals in the  
22 benefit plan's suburban service area live within seven (7) miles of  
23 a retail pharmacy designated as a preferred participating pharmacy  
24 in the benefit plan's retail pharmacy network;

1           5. At least seventy percent (70%) of covered individuals in the  
2 benefit plan's rural service area live within fifteen (15) miles of  
3 a retail pharmacy participating in the benefit plan's retail  
4 pharmacy network; and

5           6. At least seventy percent (70%) of covered individuals in the  
6 benefit plan's rural service area live within eighteen (18) miles of  
7 a retail pharmacy designated as a preferred participating pharmacy  
8 in the benefit plan's retail pharmacy network.

9           B. Mail-order pharmacies shall not be used to meet access  
10 standards for retail pharmacy networks.

11           C. Pharmacy benefits managers and benefit plans shall not  
12 require patients to use pharmacies that are directly or indirectly  
13 owned by the pharmacy benefits manager or benefit plan, including  
14 all regular prescriptions, refills or specialty drugs regardless of  
15 day supply.

16           D. Pharmacy benefits managers and benefit plans shall not in  
17 any manner on any material, including but not limited to mail and ID  
18 cards, include the name of any pharmacy, hospital or other providers  
19 unless it specifically lists all pharmacies, hospitals and providers  
20 participating in the preferred and nonpreferred pharmacy and health  
21 networks.

22           SECTION 5.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6962 of Title 36, unless there  
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. The Oklahoma Insurance Department shall review and approve  
2 retail pharmacy network access for all benefit plans to ensure  
3 compliance with Section 4 of this act.

4       B. A pharmacy benefits manager (PBM), or PBM representative of  
5 a PBM, shall not:

6       1. Cause or knowingly permit the use of advertisement,  
7 promotion, solicitation, representation, proposal or offer that is  
8 untrue, deceptive or misleading;

9       2. Charge a pharmacist or pharmacy a fee related to the  
10 adjudication of a claim, including without limitation a fee for:

11           a. the submission of a claim,

12           b. enrollment or participation in a retail pharmacy  
13 network, or

14           c. the development or management of claims processing  
15 services or claims payment services related to  
16 participation in a retail pharmacy network;

17       3. Reimburse an independent pharmacy or independent pharmacist  
18 in the state an amount less than the amount that the PBM reimburses  
19 a pharmacy owned by or under common ownership with a PBM for  
20 providing the same covered services. The reimbursement amount shall  
21 be calculated on a per-unit basis using the same generic product  
22 identifier or generic code number submitted by the PBM-owned or PBM-  
23 affiliated pharmacy;

1 4. Deny a pharmacy the opportunity to participate in any  
2 pharmacy network at preferred participation status if the pharmacy  
3 is willing to accept the terms and conditions that the PBM has  
4 established for other pharmacies as a condition of preferred network  
5 participation status;

6 5. Deny, limit or terminate a pharmacy's contract based on  
7 employment status of any employee who has an active license to  
8 dispense, despite probation status, with the State Board of  
9 Pharmacy;

10 6. Impose on a covered individual a monetary advantage or  
11 penalty, including a higher cost-sharing or additional fee which  
12 would affect a covered individual's choices of network pharmacy;

13 7. Retroactively deny or reduce reimbursement for a covered  
14 service claim after returning a paid claim response as part of the  
15 adjudication of the claim, unless:

- 16 a. the original claim was submitted fraudulently, or
- 17 b. to correct errors identified in an audit, so long as  
18 the audit was conducted in compliance with Sections  
19 356.2 and 356.3 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 20 or

21 8. Fail to make any payment due to a pharmacy or pharmacist for  
22 covered services properly rendered in the event a PBM terminates a  
23 pharmacy or pharmacist from a pharmacy benefits manager network.

1 C. The prohibitions under this section shall apply to contracts  
2 between pharmacy benefits managers and pharmacists or pharmacies for  
3 participation in retail pharmacy networks.

4 1. A benefit plan shall:

5 a. not restrict, directly or indirectly, any pharmacy  
6 that dispenses a prescription drug to an enrollee in  
7 the plan or coverage from informing, or penalize such  
8 pharmacy for informing, an enrollee of any  
9 differential between the enrollee's out-of-pocket cost  
10 under the plan or coverage with respect to acquisition  
11 of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for  
12 acquisition of the drug without using any health plan  
13 or health insurance coverage, and

14 b. ensure that any entity that provides pharmacy benefits  
15 management services under a contract with any such  
16 health plan or health insurance coverage does not,  
17 with respect to such plan or coverage, restrict,  
18 directly or indirectly, a pharmacy that dispenses a  
19 prescription drug from informing, or penalize such  
20 pharmacy for informing, an enrollee of any  
21 differential between the enrollee's out-of-pocket cost  
22 under the plan or coverage with respect to acquisition  
23 of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for  
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1 acquisition of the drug without using any health plan  
2 or health insurance coverage.

3 2. A pharmacy benefits manager contract with a participating  
4 pharmacist or pharmacy shall not prohibit, restrict or limit  
5 disclosure of information to the Insurance Commissioner, law  
6 enforcement or state and federal governmental officials  
7 investigating or examining a complaint or conducting a review of a  
8 pharmacy benefits manager's compliance with the requirements under  
9 the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act.

10 3. A pharmacy benefits manager shall establish and maintain an  
11 electronic claim inquiry processing system using the National  
12 Council for Prescription Drug Programs current standards to  
13 communicate eligibility, benefit and claim payment information to  
14 pharmacies submitting claim inquiries.

15 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6963 of Title 36, unless there  
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. A health insurer shall be responsible for monitoring all  
19 activities carried out by, or on behalf of, the health insurer under  
20 the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, and for ensuring that  
21 all requirements of this act are met.

22 B. Whenever a health insurer contracts with another person to  
23 perform activities required under this act, the health insurer shall  
24 be responsible for monitoring the activities of that person with

1 whom the health insurer contracts and for ensuring that the  
2 requirements of this act are met.

3 C. A health insurer and its PBM have a fiduciary duty to all  
4 covered persons with respect to the provision of prescription drug  
5 benefits.

6 D. A covered person may be notified at the point of sale when  
7 the cash price for the purchase of a prescription drug is less than  
8 the covered person's copayment or coinsurance price for the purchase  
9 of the same prescription drug.

10 E. A health insurer or any entity hired or employed to manage a  
11 prescription drug plan or plans shall not restrict a covered  
12 person's choice of provider for prescription drugs and shall not  
13 require or incentivize using any discounts in cost-sharing to  
14 covered persons to receive prescription drugs from mail order  
15 pharmacies.

16 F. A health insurer, pharmacy or any entity hired or employed  
17 to manage a prescription drug plan shall adhere to all Oklahoma  
18 laws, statutes and rules when mailing, shipping and/or causing to be  
19 mailed or shipped prescription drugs into the State of Oklahoma.

20 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6964 of Title 36, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. All compensation remitted by a pharmaceutical manufacturer,  
24 developer or labeler, directly or indirectly related to a health

1 benefit plan or pharmacy benefit plan, shall be remitted to, and  
2 retained by, that health benefit plan or pharmacy benefit plan for  
3 the purposes described in subsection C of this section.

4 B. All compensation received by or on behalf of a health  
5 insurer from a pharmaceutical manufacturer, developer or labeler  
6 shall be used by the health insurer to:

7 1. Lower health benefit plan or pharmacy benefit plan premiums  
8 for covered persons;

9 2. Lower copayment and coinsurance amounts for covered persons;  
10 or

11 3. Expand pharmacy benefit plan coverage.

12 C. A health insurer shall file with the Insurance Commissioner,  
13 on or before March 1 each year, an annual report, in a manner and  
14 form established by rule promulgated by the Commissioner,  
15 demonstrating how the amount and nature of compensation received  
16 from pharmaceutical manufacturers, developers or labelers has:

17 1. Lowered health benefit plan or pharmacy benefit plan  
18 premiums for covered persons;

19 2. Lowered copayment and coinsurance amounts for covered  
20 persons; or

21 3. Expanded pharmacy benefit plan coverage.

22 D. The annual-report-filing requirement in subsection C of this  
23 section shall not begin until March 1, 2021.

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1 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6965 of Title 36, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. A health insurer's pharmacy and therapeutics committee (P&T  
5 committee) shall establish a formulary, which shall be a list of  
6 prescription drugs, both generic and brand name, used by  
7 practitioners to identify drugs that offer the greatest overall  
8 value.

9 B. A health insurer shall prohibit conflicts of interest for  
10 members of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee (P&T committee).

11 1. A person may not serve on a P&T committee if the person is  
12 currently employed or was employed within the preceding year by a  
13 pharmaceutical manufacturer, developer, labeler, wholesaler or  
14 distributor.

15 2. A health insurer shall require any member of the P&T  
16 committee to disclose any compensation or funding from a  
17 pharmaceutical manufacturer, developer, labeler, wholesaler or  
18 distributor. Such P&T committee member shall be recused from voting  
19 on any product manufactured or sold by such pharmaceutical  
20 manufacturer, developer, labeler, wholesaler or distributor.

21 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6966 of Title 36, unless there  
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1       A. The Insurance Commissioner shall have power to examine and  
2 investigate into the affairs of every pharmacy benefits manager  
3 (PBM) engaged in pharmacy benefits management in this state in order  
4 to determine whether such entity is in compliance with the Patient's  
5 Right to Pharmacy Choice Act.

6       B. All PBM files and records shall be subject to examination by  
7 the Insurance Commissioner or by duly appointed designees. The  
8 Insurance Commissioner, authorized employees and examiners shall  
9 have access to any of a PBM's files and records that may relate to a  
10 particular complaint under investigation or to an inquiry or  
11 examination by the Insurance Department.

12       C. Every officer, director, employee or agent of the PBM, upon  
13 receipt of any inquiry from the Commissioner shall, within thirty  
14 (30) days from the date the inquiry is sent, furnish the  
15 Commissioner with an adequate response to the inquiry.

16       D. When making an examination under this section, the Insurance  
17 Commissioner may retain subject matter experts, attorneys,  
18 appraisers, independent actuaries, independent certified public  
19 accountants or an accounting firm or individual holding a permit to  
20 practice public accounting, certified financial examiners or other  
21 professionals and specialists as examiners, the cost of which shall  
22 be borne by the PBM which is the subject of the examination.

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1 SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6967 of Title 36, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Insurance Commissioner shall provide for the receiving  
5 and processing of individual complaints alleging violations of the  
6 provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act.

7 B. The Commissioner shall establish a Right to Patient Choice  
8 Advisory Committee to review complaints, hold hearings and subpoena  
9 witnesses and records, initiate prosecution, reprimand, place on  
10 probation, suspend, revoke, and/or levy fines not to exceed Ten  
11 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for each count for which any pharmacy  
12 benefits manager (PBM) has violated a provision of this act. The  
13 Advisory Committee may impose as part of any disciplinary action the  
14 payment of costs expended by the Insurance Department for any legal  
15 fees and costs, including but not limited to, staff time, salary and  
16 travel expense, witness fees and attorney fees. The Advisory  
17 Committee may take such actions singly or in combination, as the  
18 nature of the violation requires.

19 C. The Advisory Committee shall consist of seven (7) persons  
20 appointed as follows:

21 1. Two persons who shall be nominated by the Oklahoma  
22 Pharmacists Association;

23 2. Two consumer members not employed or related to insurance,  
24 pharmacy or PBM nominated by the Office of the Governor;

1           3. Two persons representing the PBM or insurance industry  
2 nominated by the Insurance Commissioner; and

3           4. One person representing the Office of the Attorney General  
4 nominated by the Attorney General.

5           D. Committee members shall be appointed for terms of five (5)  
6 years. The terms of the members of the Advisory Committee shall  
7 expire on the thirtieth day of June of the year designated for the  
8 expiration of the term for which appointed, but the member shall  
9 serve until a qualified successor has been duly appointed. No  
10 person shall be appointed to serve more than two consecutive terms.

11           E. Hearings shall be held in the Insurance Commissioner's  
12 offices or at such other place as the Insurance Commissioner may  
13 deem convenient.

14           F. The Insurance Commissioner shall issue and serve upon the  
15 PBM a statement of the charges and a notice of hearing in accordance  
16 with the Administrative Procedures Act, Sections 250.1 through 323  
17 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

18           G. At the time and place fixed for a hearing, the PBM shall  
19 have an opportunity to be heard and to show cause why the Insurance  
20 Commissioner or his or her duly appointed hearing examiner should  
21 not revoke or suspend the PBM's license and levy administrative  
22 fines for each violation. Upon good cause shown, the Commissioner  
23 shall permit any person to intervene, appear and be heard at the  
24 hearing by counsel or in person.

1 H. All hearings will be public and held in accordance with, and  
2 governed by, Sections 250.1 through 323 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma  
3 Statutes.

4 I. The Insurance Commissioner, upon written request reasonably  
5 made by the licensed PBM affected by the hearing, and at such PBM's  
6 expense, shall cause a full stenographic record of the proceedings  
7 to be made by a competent court reporter.

8 J. If the Insurance Commissioner determines, based on an  
9 investigation of complaints, that a PBM has engaged in violations of  
10 this act with such frequency as to indicate a general business  
11 practice and that such PBM should be subjected to closer supervision  
12 with respect to such practices, the Insurance Commissioner may  
13 require the PBM to file a report at such periodic intervals as the  
14 Insurance Commissioner deems necessary.

15 SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6968 of Title 36, unless there  
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. Documents, materials, reports, complaints or other  
19 information in the possession or control of the Insurance Department  
20 that are obtained by or disclosed to the Insurance Commissioner or  
21 any other person in the course of an evaluation, examination,  
22 investigation or review made pursuant to the provisions of the  
23 Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act shall be confidential by law  
24 and privileged, shall not be subject to open records request, shall



1 not be subject to subpoena, and shall not be subject to discovery or  
2 admissible in evidence in any private civil action if obtained from  
3 the Insurance Commissioner or any employees or representatives of  
4 the Insurance Commissioner.

5 B. Nothing in this section shall prevent the disclosure of a  
6 final order issued against a pharmacy benefits manager by the  
7 Insurance Commissioner or his or her duly appointed hearing  
8 examiner. Such orders shall be open records.

9 SECTION 12. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

10 Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2019.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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