

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 773

6 By: Gollihare

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to pharmacy benefit managers;  
9 amending 36 O.S. 2021, Sections 6960, as last amended  
10 by Section 1, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024, 6962, as last  
11 amended by Section 2, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024, 6965,  
12 as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 306, O.S.L.  
13 2024, and Section 3, Chapter 38, O.S.L. 2022, as last  
14 amended by Section 4, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024 (36  
15 O.S. Supp. 2024, Sections 6960, 6962, 6965, and  
16 6966.1), which relate to definitions, compliance  
17 review, and power, authority to investigate, examine,  
18 and enforce, and violations, penalties, and hearings;  
19 modifying definitions; prohibiting certain  
20 circumstances; requiring nonpayment under providing  
21 venue for certain court proceeding; allowing Attorney  
22 General to obtain certain information; extending  
23 certain duties; allowing certain request for a court  
24 reporter; requiring certain refund of certain costs  
by Attorney General; establishing certain fines and  
penalties; updating statutory references; and  
providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2021, Section 6960, as  
last amended by Section 1, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024 (36 O.S. Supp.  
2024, Section 6960), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 6960. A. For purposes of the Patient's Right to  
2 Pharmacy Choice Act:

3 1. "Covered entity" means a nonprofit hospital or medical  
4 service organization, for-profit hospital or medical service  
5 organization, insurer, health benefit plan, health maintenance  
6 organization, health program administered by the state in the  
7 capacity of providing health coverage, or an employer, labor union,  
8 or other group of persons that provides health coverage to persons  
9 in this state. This term does not include a health plan that  
10 provides coverage only for accidental injury, specified disease,  
11 hospital indemnity, disability income, or other limited benefit  
12 health insurance policies and contracts that do not include  
13 prescription drug coverage;

14 2. "Health insurer" means any corporation, association, benefit  
15 society, exchange, partnership or individual licensed by the  
16 Oklahoma Insurance Code;

17 3. "Health insurer payor" means a health insurance company,  
18 health maintenance organization, union, hospital and medical  
19 services organization or any entity providing or administering a  
20 self-funded health benefit plan;

21 4. "Mail-order pharmacy" means a pharmacy licensed by this  
22 state that primarily dispenses and delivers covered drugs via common  
23 carrier;

24

1           5. "Pharmacy benefits manager" or "PBM" means a person,  
2 business, or other entity that performs pharmacy benefits  
3 management. The term shall include any business or entity licensed  
4 by the Insurance Department to perform PBM services, or a person or  
5 entity acting on behalf of a PBM in a contractual or employment  
6 relationship in the performance of pharmacy benefits management for  
7 a managed care company, nonprofit hospital, medical service  
8 organization, insurance company, third-party payor or a health  
9 program administered by a department of this state;

10           6. "Pharmacy benefits management" means a service provided to  
11 covered entities to facilitate the provisions of prescription drug  
12 benefits to covered individuals within the state, including, but not  
13 limited to, negotiating pricing and other terms with drug  
14 manufacturers and providers. Pharmacy benefits management may  
15 include any or all of the following services:

- 16           a. claims processing, retail network management, and  
17           payment of claims to pharmacies for prescription drugs  
18           dispensed to covered individuals,
- 19           ~~b. administration or management of pharmacy discount~~  
20           ~~cards or programs,~~
- 21           ~~e.~~ clinical formulary development and management  
22           services, or
- 23           ~~d.~~ c. rebate contracting and administration;

1 7. "Provider" means a pharmacy, as defined in Section 353.1 of  
2 Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an agent or representative of a  
3 pharmacy;

4 8. "Retail pharmacy network" means retail pharmacy providers  
5 contracted with a PBM in which the pharmacy primarily fills and  
6 sells prescriptions via a retail, storefront location;

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

10 10. "Spread pricing" means a prescription drug pricing model  
11 utilized by a pharmacy benefits manager in which the PBM charges a  
12 health benefit plan a contracted price for prescription drugs that  
13 differs from the amount the PBM directly or indirectly pays the  
14 pharmacy or pharmacist for providing pharmacy services;

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

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

21 B. Nothing in the definitions of pharmacy benefits manager or  
22 pharmacy benefits management as such terms are defined in the  
23 Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity  
24 Act, or Sections 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma

1 Statutes shall be construed to deem the following entities to be a  
2 pharmacy benefits manager:

3 1. An employer of its own self-funded health benefit plan,  
4 except, to the extent permitted by applicable law, where the  
5 employer without the utilization of a third party and unrelated to  
6 the employer's own pharmacy:

- 7 a. negotiates directly with drug manufacturers,
- 8 b. processes claims on behalf of its members, or
- 9 c. manages its own retail network of pharmacies; or

10 2. A pharmacy that provides a patient with a discount card or  
11 program that is for exclusive use at the pharmacy offering the  
12 discount.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2021, Section 6962, as  
14 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024 (36 O.S. Supp.  
15 2024, Section 6962), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 6962. A. The Attorney General shall review and approve  
17 retail pharmacy network access for all pharmacy benefits managers  
18 (PBMs) to ensure compliance with Section 6961 of this title.

19 B. A PBM, or an agent of a PBM, shall not:

20 1. Cause or knowingly permit the use of advertisement,  
21 promotion, solicitation, representation, proposal or offer that is  
22 untrue, deceptive or misleading;

23 2. Charge a pharmacist or pharmacy a fee related to the  
24 adjudication of a claim including without limitation a fee for:

- a. the submission of a claim,
- b. enrollment or participation in a retail pharmacy network, or
- c. the development or management of claims processing services or claims payment services related to participation in a retail pharmacy network;

3. Reimburse a pharmacy or pharmacist in the state an amount less than the amount that the PBM reimburses a pharmacy owned by or under common ownership with a PBM for providing the same covered services. The reimbursement amount paid to the pharmacy shall be equal to the reimbursement amount calculated on a per-unit basis using the same generic product identifier or generic code number paid to the PBM-owned or PBM-affiliated pharmacy;

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

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

1           6. Retroactively deny or reduce reimbursement for a covered  
2 service claim after returning a paid claim response as part of the  
3 adjudication of the claim, unless:

- 4           a. the original claim was submitted fraudulently, or
- 5           b. to correct errors identified in an audit, so long as
- 6                 the audit was conducted in compliance with Sections
- 7                 356.2 and 356.3 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

8           7. Fail to make any payment due to a pharmacy or pharmacist for  
9 covered services properly rendered in the event a PBM terminates a  
10 provider from a pharmacy benefits manager network;

11           8. Fail to make any payment due to a pharmacy or pharmacist for  
12 covered services properly rendered in the event a PBM terminates its  
13 contract with a plan sponsor or insurer;

14           9. Conduct or practice spread pricing, as defined in Section  
15 6960 of this title, in this state; or

16           ~~9.~~ 10. Charge a pharmacist or pharmacy a fee related to  
17 participation in a retail pharmacy network including, but not  
18 limited to, the following:

- 19           a. an application fee,
- 20           b. an enrollment or participation fee,
- 21           c. a credentialing or re-credentialing fee,
- 22           d. a change of ownership fee, or
- 23           e. a fee for the development or management of claims
- 24                 processing services or claims payment services.

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

4 1. A PBM contract shall:

5 a. not restrict, directly or indirectly, any pharmacy  
6 that dispenses a prescription drug from informing, or  
7 penalize such pharmacy for informing, an individual of  
8 any differential between the individual's out-of-  
9 pocket cost or coverage with respect to acquisition of  
10 the drug and the amount an individual would pay to  
11 purchase the drug directly, and

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

1           2. A pharmacy benefits manager's contract with a provider shall  
2 not prohibit, restrict, or limit disclosure of information or  
3 documents to the Attorney General, law enforcement or state and  
4 federal governmental officials investigating or examining a  
5 complaint or conducting a review of a pharmacy benefits manager's  
6 compliance with the requirements under the Patient's Right to  
7 Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections  
8 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

9           D. A pharmacy benefits manager shall:

10           1. Establish and maintain an electronic claim inquiry  
11 processing system using the National Council for Prescription Drug  
12 ~~Programs'~~ Programs's current standards to communicate information to  
13 pharmacies submitting claim inquiries;

14           2. Fully disclose to insurers, self-funded employers, unions or  
15 other PBM clients the existence of the respective aggregate  
16 prescription drug discounts, rebates received from drug  
17 manufacturers and pharmacy audit recoupments;

18           3. Provide the Attorney General, insurers, self-funded employer  
19 plans and unions unrestricted audit rights of and access to the  
20 respective PBM pharmaceutical manufacturer and provider contracts,  
21 plan utilization data, plan pricing data, pharmacy utilization data  
22 and pharmacy pricing data;

23           4. Maintain, for no less than three (3) years, documentation of  
24 all network development activities including,    but not limited to,

1 contract negotiations and any denials to providers to join networks.  
2 This documentation shall be made available to the Attorney General  
3 upon request; and

4 5. Report to the Attorney General, on a quarterly basis for  
5 each health insurer payor, on the following information:

6 a. the aggregate amount of rebates received by the PBM,

7 b. the aggregate amount of rebates distributed to the  
8 appropriate health insurer payor,

9 c. the aggregate amount of rebates passed on to the  
10 enrollees of each health insurer payor at the point of  
11 sale that reduced the applicable deductible,  
12 copayment, coinsure or other cost sharing amount of  
13 the enrollee,

14 d. the individual and aggregate amount paid by the health  
15 insurer payor to the PBM for pharmacy services  
16 itemized by pharmacy, drug product and service  
17 provided, and

18 e. the individual and aggregate amount a PBM paid a  
19 provider for pharmacy services itemized by pharmacy,  
20 drug product and service provided.

21 E. Nothing in the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act shall  
22 prohibit the Attorney General from requesting and obtaining detailed  
23 data, including raw data, in response to the information provided by  
24 a PBM in the quarterly reports required by this section. The

1 Attorney General may alter the frequency of the reports required by  
2 this section at his or her sole discretion.

3 F. The Attorney General may promulgate rules to implement the  
4 provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the  
5 Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections 357 through 360 of Title  
6 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

7 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2021, Section 6965, as  
8 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024 (36 O.S. Supp.  
9 2024, Section 6965), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 6965. A. The Attorney General shall have power and  
11 authority to examine and investigate the affairs of every pharmacy  
12 benefits manager (PBM) engaged in pharmacy benefits management in  
13 this state in order to determine whether such entity is in  
14 compliance with the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the  
15 Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections 357 through 360 of Title  
16 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

17 B. The Attorney General shall have the power and authority to  
18 subpoena witnesses and records, whether prior to or during an  
19 investigation or prosecution of a complaint, from any relevant  
20 entity or persons to ensure compliance with the Patient's Right to  
21 Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections  
22 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

23 C. All PBM files and records shall be subject to examination by  
24 the Attorney General or by duly appointed designees. The Attorney

1 General, authorized employees and examiners shall have access to any  
2 of a PBM's files and records that may relate to a particular  
3 complaint under investigation or to an inquiry or examination by the  
4 Attorney General.

5 D. Every officer, director, employee or agent of the PBM, upon  
6 receipt of any inquiry from the Attorney General, shall, within  
7 twenty (20) days from the date the inquiry is sent, furnish the  
8 Attorney General with an adequate response to the inquiry.

9 E. When making an examination under this section, the Attorney  
10 General may retain subject matter experts, attorneys, appraisers,  
11 independent actuaries, independent certified public accountants or  
12 an accounting firm or individual holding a permit to practice public  
13 accounting, certified financial examiners or other professionals and  
14 specialists as examiners, the cost of which shall be borne by the  
15 PBM that is the subject of the examination.

16 F. 1. Protected health information (PHI) held by a PBM shall  
17 be provided at the request of the Attorney General for the purpose  
18 of conducting investigations into potential violations of state laws  
19 and regulations related to the PBM. Disclosure of protected health  
20 information shall be limited to the extent necessary for the  
21 investigation and enforcement of state law.

22 2. All disclosures of protected health information shall be  
23 made in compliance with all applicable federal and state privacy  
24 laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability

1 Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and other relevant laws protecting the privacy  
2 and confidentiality of health information.

3 3. Any protected health information obtained for an  
4 investigation shall be handled and maintained per applicable federal  
5 and state privacy laws and regulations, including HIPAA.

6 4. Unauthorized disclosure of protected health information  
7 obtained during an investigation is strictly prohibited and subject  
8 to legal penalties.

9 G. 1. If the Attorney General, after notice and opportunity  
10 for hearing, finds that any PBM operating within this state has not  
11 fully cooperated with an investigation or inquiry conducted by the  
12 Attorney General related to compliance with the Patient's Right to  
13 Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections  
14 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Attorney  
15 General may instruct the Insurance Commissioner that the PBM be  
16 censured or his or her license be suspended or revoked. If the  
17 Attorney General makes such instruction, the Commissioner shall  
18 enforce the instructed action within thirty (30) days.

19 2. In addition to or in lieu of any censure, suspension, or  
20 revocation by the Commissioner, the Attorney General may levy a  
21 civil or administrative fine not less than One Hundred Dollars  
22 (\$100.00) and not greater than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for  
23 each violation of this subsection and assess any other penalty or  
24 remedy authorized by this ~~act~~ section and Sections 6960, 6962,

1 6966.1, 6966.2, and 6967 of this title. For purposes of this  
2 section, each day a PBM fails to comply with an investigation or  
3 inquiry may be considered a separate violation.

4 H. The proper venue to compel compliance with a subpoena of a  
5 person or entity under this section shall be in the Oklahoma County  
6 District Court.

7 I. No provision of this state's law shall be construed to  
8 prohibit the Attorney General from obtaining any information or  
9 documentation pertaining to prescription drug transactions  
10 including, but not limited to, data, statements, testimonies,  
11 contracts, communications, provider manuals, or any other  
12 documentation or materials, whether related to discount programs,  
13 loyalty programs, or otherwise. The duty to provide cooperation as  
14 set forth in this section shall extend to all PBMs, insurers,  
15 auditors, employers, vendors, or any other individuals or entities  
16 acting on behalf of or in collaboration with a PBM.

17 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 38, O.S.L.  
18 2022, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2024 (36  
19 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6966.1), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6966.1. A. The Insurance Commissioner may censure,  
21 suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license of or levy a  
22 civil penalty against any person licensed under the insurance laws  
23 of this state for any violation of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy  
24 Choice Act, Section 6958 et seq. of this title.

1 B. 1. If the Attorney General finds, after notice and  
2 opportunity for hearing, that a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM)  
3 violated one or more provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy  
4 Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act or the provisions of  
5 Sections 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the  
6 Attorney General may instruct the Insurance Commissioner that the  
7 PBM be censured or his or her license be suspended or revoked. If  
8 the Attorney General makes such instruction, the Commissioner shall  
9 enforce such action within thirty (30) days.

10 2. In addition to or in lieu of any censure or suspension or  
11 revocation of a license by the Commissioner, the Attorney General  
12 may levy a civil or administrative fine not less than One Hundred  
13 Dollars (\$100.00) and not greater than Ten Thousand Dollars  
14 (\$10,000.00) for each violation of the provisions of the Patient's  
15 Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act or  
16 the provisions of Sections 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the  
17 Oklahoma Statutes.

18 3. The Attorney General may order restitution for economic loss  
19 suffered by pharmacies or patients for violations of the Patient's  
20 Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, or  
21 the provisions of Sections 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the  
22 Oklahoma Statutes.

23 C. Notwithstanding whether the license of a PBM has been  
24 issued, suspended, revoked, surrendered or lapsed by operation of

1 law, the Attorney General is hereby authorized to enforce the  
2 provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act and impose  
3 any penalty or remedy authorized under the act against a PBM under  
4 investigation for or charged with a violation of the Patient's Right  
5 to Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, the  
6 provisions of Sections 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma  
7 Statutes or any provision of the insurance laws of this state.

8 D. Each day that a PBM conducts business in this state without  
9 a license from the Insurance Department shall be deemed a violation  
10 of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act.

11 E. 1. All hearings conducted by the Office of the Attorney  
12 General pursuant to this section shall be public and held in  
13 accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

14 2. Hearings shall be held at the Office of the Attorney General  
15 or any other place the Attorney General may deem convenient.

16 3. The Attorney General, upon written request from a PBM  
17 affected by the hearing, shall cause a full stenographic record of  
18 the proceedings to be made by a competent court reporter. This  
19 record shall be at the expense of the PBM. The Attorney General may  
20 request a court reporter without a request from a PBM, which shall  
21 be at the cost of the Office of the Attorney General unless the  
22 Attorney General is the prevailing party in litigation following a  
23 final order.  
24

1 4. The ordinary fees and costs of the hearing examiner  
2 appointed pursuant to Section 319 of this title may be assessed by  
3 the hearing examiner against the respondent unless the respondent is  
4 the prevailing party.

5 F. 1. Any PBM whose license has been censured, suspended,  
6 revoked, ~~or~~ denied renewal, or who has had monetary damages or a  
7 fine levied against him or her shall have the right of appeal from  
8 the final order of the Attorney General, pursuant to Section 318 et  
9 seq. of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

10 2. Any monetary damages, administrative fines, or court costs  
11 owed by the PBM resulting from any appeal of a final order of the  
12 Attorney General pursuant to Section 318 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma  
13 Statutes shall be placed in a holding account with the Office of the  
14 Attorney General within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the  
15 final order.

16 3. If the PBM prevails on every issue raised in the appeal of a  
17 final order of the Attorney General pursuant to Section 318 of Title  
18 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Attorney General shall refund all  
19 monies related to the appeal at issue and paid by the PBM within  
20 sixty (60) days of the expiration of the appeal deadlines for the  
21 Office of the Attorney General.

22 4. Any instance in which a PBM fails to pay monies owed as a  
23 result of a final order or an appeal of a final order within thirty  
24 (30) days of the issuance of the final order shall be considered a

1 separate violation of the provisions of Sections 6958 through 6969  
2 of this title and Sections 356 through 356.5 and 357 through 360 of  
3 Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

4 5. The PBM shall be assessed a fine of Ten Thousand Dollars  
5 (\$10,000.00) per calendar day for each day the PBM fails to comply  
6 with this section.

7 6. A PBM that fails to comply with this section for more than  
8 six (6) months shall have its license to operate in this state  
9 suspended for the duration of time it takes the PBM to comply with  
10 this section.

11 G. If the Attorney General determines, based upon an  
12 investigation of complaints, that a PBM has engaged in violations of  
13 the provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the  
14 Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections 357 through 360 of Title  
15 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes with such frequency as to indicate a  
16 general business practice, and that the PBM should be subjected to  
17 closer supervision with respect to those practices, the Attorney  
18 General may require the PBM to file a report at any periodic  
19 interval the Attorney General deems necessary.

20 H. 1. The Attorney General shall have the authority to collect  
21 all fines, penalties, restitution, and interest thereon pursuant to  
22 the provisions of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the  
23 Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and the provisions of Sections 357  
24 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or any other

1 charge, cause of action, prelitigation settlement, or other  
2 settlement that requires the recovery of money as a result of  
3 violations of the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act. Funds  
4 collected by the Attorney General pursuant to the Patient's Right to  
5 Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and Sections  
6 357 through 360 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be  
7 deposited into the Attorney General's Pharmacy Benefits Manager  
8 Enforcement Revolving Fund created in Section ~~5 of this act~~ 6966.2  
9 of this title.

10 2. Costs of investigation, litigation, attorney fees, and other  
11 expenses incurred shall be retained by the Office of the Attorney  
12 General. Remaining funds shall be distributed to pharmacists,  
13 patients, or other injured parties as determined by the Attorney  
14 General.

15 3. The Attorney General shall promulgate rules for the  
16 distribution of funds pursuant to this subsection.

17 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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