



## **Sub. H.B. 138**

125th General Assembly  
(As Reported by H. Insurance)

**Reps. G. Smith, Olman, Sferra, Brown, Gibbs, Driehaus, D. Evans, Setzer, Wolpert, Barrett, Koziura, Fessler**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Permits organizations comprised of health care providers or insurance agents to sponsor small employer health care alliance programs that assist the providers or agents in obtaining health care coverage.
- Requires a bargaining representative for a health care alliance to disclose any current or past financial relationship with the selling insurer.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Small employer health care alliance programs for health care providers and insurance agents**

(sec. 1731.01)

Current law permits organizations that have been granted a certificate of authority by the Superintendent of Insurance to sponsor a program that assists the organization's members in obtaining health care coverage for their employees. These organizations are known as "small employer health care alliances." A small employer health care alliance may be either: (1) a nonprofit corporation that is controlled by a chamber of commerce, trade association, professional organization, or a combination thereof, or (2) a chamber of commerce, trade association, professional organization, or any other nonprofit corporation or association, with members that include or are exclusively small employers. A small employer health care alliance currently *may not* be directly or indirectly controlled by insurance agents or health care providers.

This bill adds to the definition of "small employer health care alliance" nonprofit organizations that are comprised of members who are either insurance agents or providers, which organizations are controlled by the organization's

members or by the organization itself, and which elect to offer health insurance exclusively to any or all of the following:

- (1) Employees and retirees of the organization;
- (2) Insurance agents and providers that are members of the organization;
- (3) Employees and retirees of agents or providers that are members of the organization;
- (4) Families and dependents of any of the employees, providers, agents, and retirees listed above.

This change allows insurance agents or health care providers to join together in the form of a small employer health care alliance in order to find health care coverage.

Under the bill, this section of the Small Employer Health Care Alliance Law, Chapter 1731. of the Revised Code, will continue unchanged the existing definition of "provider" that includes hospitals, urgent care facilities, nursing homes, physicians, podiatrists, dentists, pharmacists, chiropractors, and other health care providers, or groups thereof, licensed by this state. Insurance agents are licensed under Chapter 3905. of the Revised Code.

**Disclosure**

(sec. 1731.03)

The bill requires any person representing a small employer health care alliance in bargaining for or negotiating a health benefit plan with a sickness and accident insurer or health insuring corporation to disclose to the governing board of the alliance any direct or indirect financial relationship the person has, or had during the past two years, with the insurer or health insuring corporation.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-25-03	p. 277
Reported, H. Insurance	06-04-03	pp. 537-538

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