

1 AN ACT relating to mental health coverage in connection with pregnancy.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 304.17A-145 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) ***As used in this section:***

5 ***(a) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as in KRS 304.17A-005,***  
 6 ***except that for purposes of subsection (2)(b) of this section, the term***  
 7 ***includes student health insurance offered by a Kentucky-licensed insurer***  
 8 ***under written contract with a university or college whose students it***  
 9 ***proposes to insure; and***

10 ***(b) "Pregnant and postpartum persons at increased risk of perinatal***  
 11 ***depression" includes persons who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth.***

12 **(2)** A health benefit plan~~[ issued or renewed on or after July 15, 1996,]~~ that provides  
 13 maternity coverage shall provide coverage for:

14 **(a)** Inpatient care for a mother and her newly-born child for a minimum of forty-  
 15 eight (48) hours after vaginal delivery and a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours  
 16 after delivery by Cesarean section; **and**

17 **(b) *Counseling interventions for pregnant and postpartum persons at increased***  
 18 ***risk of perinatal depression.***

19 ~~**(3)(2)**~~ The provisions of subsection ~~**(2)(a)(1)**~~ of this section shall not apply to a  
 20 health benefit plan if:

21 **(a)** The health benefit plan authorizes an initial postpartum home visit **that**  
 22 **includes**~~[which would include]~~ the collection of an adequate sample for the  
 23 hereditary and metabolic newborn screening; **and**~~[if]~~

24 **(b)** The attending physician, with the consent of the mother of the newly-born  
 25 child, authorizes a shorter length of stay than that required of health benefit  
 26 plans in subsection ~~**(2)(a)(1)**~~ of this section upon the physician's  
 27 determination that the mother and newborn meet the criteria for medical

1 stability in the most current version of "Guidelines for Perinatal Care"  
2 prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College  
3 of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

4 ➔Section 2. KRS 205.522 (Effective January 1, 2024) is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 (1) **With respect to the administration and provision of Medicaid benefits pursuant to**  
7 **this chapter,** the Department for Medicaid Services, ~~and~~ any managed care  
8 organization contracted to provide Medicaid benefits pursuant to this chapter, **and**  
9 **the state's medical assistance program** shall **be subject to, and** comply with, the  
10 **following, as applicable:**~~[provisions of]~~

- 11 (a) ~~KRS 304.17A-163;~~
- 12 (b) ~~KRS 304.17A-1631;~~
- 13 (c) ~~KRS 304.17A-167;~~
- 14 (d) ~~KRS 304.17A-235;~~
- 15 (e) ~~KRS 304.17A-257;~~
- 16 (f) ~~KRS 304.17A-259;~~
- 17 (g) ~~KRS 304.17A-263;~~
- 18 (h) ~~KRS 304.17A-515;~~
- 19 (i) ~~KRS 304.17A-580;~~
- 20 (j) ~~KRS 304.17A-600, 304.17A-603, **and** 304.17A-607;~~ ~~and~~
- 21 (k) ~~KRS 304.17A-740 to 304.17A-743; **and**, as applicable]~~
- 22 (l) **Subsection (2)(b) of Section 1 of this Act.**

23 (2) A managed care organization contracted to provide Medicaid benefits pursuant to  
24 this chapter shall comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 304.17A-732.

25 ➔Section 3. KRS 205.6485 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) **As used in this section, "KCHIP" means the Kentucky Children's Health**  
27 **Insurance Program.**

1 **(2)** The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall:

2 **(a)** Prepare a state child health plan, **known as KCHIP**, meeting the requirements  
3 of Title XXI of the Federal Social Security Act, for submission to the  
4 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services  
5 within such time as will permit the state to receive the maximum amounts of  
6 federal matching funds available under Title XXI; **and** ~~[- The cabinet shall, -]~~

7 **(b)** By administrative regulation promulgated in accordance with KRS Chapter  
8 13A, establish the following:

9 ~~1. (a)~~ The eligibility criteria for children covered by **KCHIP, which**  
10 **shall include a provision that** ~~[- the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance~~  
11 ~~Program. However, -]~~ no person eligible for services under Title XIX of  
12 the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. **secs.** 1396 to 1396v, as amended,  
13 shall be eligible for services under **KCHIP**, ~~[- the Kentucky Children's~~  
14 ~~Health Insurance Program]~~ except to the extent that Title XIX coverage  
15 is expanded by KRS 205.6481 to 205.6495 and KRS 304.17A-340;

16 ~~2. (b)~~ The schedule of benefits to be covered by **KCHIP** ~~[- the Kentucky~~  
17 ~~Children's Health Insurance Program]~~, which shall: ~~[- include preventive~~  
18 ~~services, vision services including glasses, and dental services including~~  
19 ~~at least sealants, extractions, and fillings, and which shall]~~

20 **a.** Be at least equivalent to one (1) of the following:

21 ~~i. [1.]~~ The standard Blue Cross/Blue Shield preferred provider  
22 option under the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan  
23 established by **5** U.S.C. sec. 8903(1);

24 ~~ii. [2.]~~ A mid-range health benefit coverage plan that is offered and  
25 generally available to state employees; or

26 ~~iii. [3.]~~ Health insurance coverage offered by a health  
27 maintenance organization that has the largest insured

1 commercial, non-Medicaid enrollment of covered lives in the  
2 state; and

3 **b. Comply with subsection (6) of this section;**

4 ~~3.[(e)]~~ The premium contribution per family ~~for[of]~~ health insurance  
5 coverage available under **KCHIP, which**~~[the Kentucky Children's~~  
6 ~~Health Insurance Program with provisions for the payment of premium~~  
7 ~~contributions by families of children eligible for coverage by the~~  
8 ~~program based upon a sliding scale relating to family income. Premium~~  
9 ~~contributions]~~ shall be based:

10 **a.** On a six (6) month period; and

11 **b. Upon a sliding scale relating to family income** not to exceed:

12 ~~i. [1.]~~ Ten dollars (\$10), to be paid by a family with income  
13 between one hundred percent (100%) to one hundred thirty-  
14 three percent (133%) of the federal poverty level;

15 ~~ii. [2.]~~ Twenty dollars (\$20), to be paid by a family with income  
16 between one hundred thirty-four percent (134%) to one  
17 hundred forty-nine percent (149%) of the federal poverty  
18 level; and

19 ~~iii. [3.]~~ One hundred twenty dollars (\$120), to be paid by a  
20 family with income between one hundred fifty percent  
21 (150%) to two hundred percent (200%) of the federal  
22 poverty level, and which may be made on a partial payment  
23 plan of twenty dollars (\$20) per month or sixty dollars (\$60)  
24 per quarter;

25 ~~4. [(d)]~~ There shall be no copayments for services provided under  
26 **KCHIP**~~[the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program]; and~~

27 ~~5. [(e)]~~ **a.** The criteria for health services providers and insurers

1 wishing to contract with the Commonwealth to provide ~~the~~  
2 ~~children's health insurance~~ coverage under KCHIP.

3 **b.** ~~However,~~ The cabinet shall provide, in any contracting process  
4 for coverage of ~~the~~ preventive services ~~health insurance~~  
5 ~~program~~, the opportunity for a public health department to bid on  
6 preventive health services to eligible children within the public  
7 health department's service area. A public health department shall  
8 not be disqualified from bidding because the department does not  
9 currently offer all the services required by ~~paragraph (b) of~~ this  
10 section ~~subsection~~. The criteria shall be set forth in administrative  
11 regulations under KRS Chapter 13A and shall maximize  
12 competition among the providers and insurers. The ~~Cabinet for~~  
13 Finance and Administration Cabinet shall provide oversight over  
14 contracting policies and procedures to assure that the number of  
15 applicants for contracts is maximized.

16 ~~(3)(2)~~ Within twelve (12) months of federal approval of the state's Title XXI child  
17 health plan, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall assure that a KCHIP  
18 program is available to all eligible children in all regions of the state. If necessary,  
19 in order to meet this assurance, the cabinet shall institute its own program.

20 ~~(4)(3)~~ KCHIP recipients shall have direct access without a referral from any  
21 gatekeeper primary care provider to dentists for covered primary dental services  
22 and to optometrists and ophthalmologists for covered primary eye and vision  
23 services.

24 ~~(5)(4)~~ KCHIP ~~The Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Plan~~ shall comply with  
25 KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631.

26 **(6) The schedule of benefits required under subsection (2)(b)2. of this section shall**  
27 **include:**

- 1        (a) Preventive services;
- 2        (b) Vision services, including glasses;
- 3        (c) Dental services, including sealants, extractions, and fillings; and
- 4        (d) The coverage required under subsection (2)(b) of Section 1 of this Act.

5        ➔Section 4. KRS 18A.225 (Effective January 1, 2025) is amended to read as  
 6 follows:

- 7        (1) (a) The term "employee" for purposes of this section means:
  - 8            1. Any person, including an elected public official, who is regularly
  - 9            employed by any department, office, board, agency, or branch of state
  - 10            government; or by a public postsecondary educational institution; or by
  - 11            any city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
  - 12            government, whose legislative body has opted to participate in the state-
  - 13            sponsored health insurance program pursuant to KRS 79.080; and who
  - 14            is either a contributing member to any one (1) of the retirement systems
  - 15            administered by the state, including but not limited to the Kentucky
  - 16            Retirement Systems, County Employees Retirement System, Kentucky
  - 17            Teachers' Retirement System, the Legislators' Retirement Plan, or the
  - 18            Judicial Retirement Plan; or is receiving a contractual contribution from
  - 19            the state toward a retirement plan; or, in the case of a public
  - 20            postsecondary education institution, is an individual participating in an
  - 21            optional retirement plan authorized by KRS 161.567; or is eligible to
  - 22            participate in a retirement plan established by an employer who ceases
  - 23            participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System pursuant to
  - 24            KRS 61.522 whose employees participated in the health insurance plans
  - 25            administered by the Personnel Cabinet prior to the employer's effective
  - 26            cessation date in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System;
  - 27            2. Any certified or classified employee of a local board of education or a

- 1 public charter school as defined in KRS 160.1590;
- 2 3. Any elected member of a local board of education;
- 3 4. Any person who is a present or future recipient of a retirement
- 4 allowance from the Kentucky Retirement Systems, County Employees
- 5 Retirement System, Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, the
- 6 Legislators' Retirement Plan, the Judicial Retirement Plan, or the
- 7 Kentucky Community and Technical College System's optional
- 8 retirement plan authorized by KRS 161.567, except that a person who is
- 9 receiving a retirement allowance and who is age sixty-five (65) or older
- 10 shall not be included, with the exception of persons covered under KRS
- 11 61.702(2)(b)3. and 78.5536(2)(b)3., unless he or she is actively
- 12 employed pursuant to subparagraph 1. of this paragraph; and
- 13 5. Any eligible dependents and beneficiaries of participating employees
- 14 and retirees who are entitled to participate in the state-sponsored health
- 15 insurance program;
- 16 (b) The term "health benefit plan" for the purposes of this section means a health
- 17 benefit plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-005;
- 18 (c) The term "insurer" for the purposes of this section means an insurer as defined
- 19 in KRS 304.17A-005; and
- 20 (d) The term "managed care plan" for the purposes of this section means a
- 21 managed care plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-500.
- 22 (2) (a) The secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, upon the
- 23 recommendation of the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet, shall procure, in
- 24 compliance with the provisions of KRS 45A.080, 45A.085, and 45A.090,
- 25 from one (1) or more insurers authorized to do business in this state, a group
- 26 health benefit plan that may include but not be limited to health maintenance
- 27 organization (HMO), preferred provider organization (PPO), point of service

1 (POS), and exclusive provider organization (EPO) benefit plans  
2 encompassing all or any class or classes of employees. With the exception of  
3 employers governed by the provisions of KRS Chapters 16, 18A, and 151B,  
4 all employers of any class of employees or former employees shall enter into  
5 a contract with the Personnel Cabinet prior to including that group in the state  
6 health insurance group. The contracts shall include but not be limited to  
7 designating the entity responsible for filing any federal forms, adoption of  
8 policies required for proper plan administration, acceptance of the contractual  
9 provisions with health insurance carriers or third-party administrators, and  
10 adoption of the payment and reimbursement methods necessary for efficient  
11 administration of the health insurance program. Health insurance coverage  
12 provided to state employees under this section shall, at a minimum, contain  
13 the same benefits as provided under Kentucky Kare Standard as of January 1,  
14 1994, and shall include a mail-order drug option as provided in subsection  
15 (13) of this section. All employees and other persons for whom the health care  
16 coverage is provided or made available shall annually be given an option to  
17 elect health care coverage through a self-funded plan offered by the  
18 Commonwealth or, if a self-funded plan is not available, from a list of  
19 coverage options determined by the competitive bid process under the  
20 provisions of KRS 45A.080, 45A.085, and 45A.090 and made available  
21 during annual open enrollment.

22 (b) The policy or policies shall be approved by the commissioner of insurance  
23 and may contain the provisions the commissioner of insurance approves,  
24 whether or not otherwise permitted by the insurance laws.

25 (c) Any carrier bidding to offer health care coverage to employees shall agree to  
26 provide coverage to all members of the state group, including active  
27 employees and retirees and their eligible covered dependents and



1 beneficiaries, within the county or counties specified in its bid. Except as  
2 provided in subsection (20) of this section, any carrier bidding to offer health  
3 care coverage to employees shall also agree to rate all employees as a single  
4 entity, except for those retirees whose former employers insure their active  
5 employees outside the state-sponsored health insurance program and as  
6 otherwise provided in KRS 61.702(2)(b)3.b. and 78.5536(2)(b)3.b.

7 (d) Any carrier bidding to offer health care coverage to employees shall agree to  
8 provide enrollment, claims, and utilization data to the Commonwealth in a  
9 format specified by the Personnel Cabinet with the understanding that the data  
10 shall be owned by the Commonwealth; to provide data in an electronic form  
11 and within a time frame specified by the Personnel Cabinet; and to be subject  
12 to penalties for noncompliance with data reporting requirements as specified  
13 by the Personnel Cabinet. The Personnel Cabinet shall take strict precautions  
14 to protect the confidentiality of each individual employee; however,  
15 confidentiality assertions shall not relieve a carrier from the requirement of  
16 providing stipulated data to the Commonwealth.

17 (e) The Personnel Cabinet shall develop the necessary techniques and capabilities  
18 for timely analysis of data received from carriers and, to the extent possible,  
19 provide in the request-for-proposal specifics relating to data requirements,  
20 electronic reporting, and penalties for noncompliance. The Commonwealth  
21 shall own the enrollment, claims, and utilization data provided by each carrier  
22 and shall develop methods to protect the confidentiality of the individual. The  
23 Personnel Cabinet shall include in the October annual report submitted  
24 pursuant to the provisions of KRS 18A.226 to the Governor, the General  
25 Assembly, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, an analysis of the  
26 financial stability of the program, which shall include but not be limited to  
27 loss ratios, methods of risk adjustment, measurements of carrier quality of

1 service, prescription coverage and cost management, and statutorily required  
2 mandates. If state self-insurance was available as a carrier option, the report  
3 also shall provide a detailed financial analysis of the self-insurance fund  
4 including but not limited to loss ratios, reserves, and reinsurance agreements.

5 (f) If any agency participating in the state-sponsored employee health insurance  
6 program for its active employees terminates participation and there is a state  
7 appropriation for the employer's contribution for active employees' health  
8 insurance coverage, then neither the agency nor the employees shall receive  
9 the state-funded contribution after termination from the state-sponsored  
10 employee health insurance program.

11 (g) Any funds in flexible spending accounts that remain after all reimbursements  
12 have been processed shall be transferred to the credit of the state-sponsored  
13 health insurance plan's appropriation account.

14 (h) Each entity participating in the state-sponsored health insurance program shall  
15 provide an amount at least equal to the state contribution rate for the employer  
16 portion of the health insurance premium. For any participating entity that used  
17 the state payroll system, the employer contribution amount shall be equal to  
18 but not greater than the state contribution rate.

19 (3) The premiums may be paid by the policyholder:

20 (a) Wholly from funds contributed by the employee, by payroll deduction or  
21 otherwise;

22 (b) Wholly from funds contributed by any department, board, agency, public  
23 postsecondary education institution, or branch of state, city, urban-county,  
24 charter county, county, or consolidated local government; or

25 (c) Partly from each, except that any premium due for health care coverage or  
26 dental coverage, if any, in excess of the premium amount contributed by any  
27 department, board, agency, postsecondary education institution, or branch of

1 state, city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local  
2 government for any other health care coverage shall be paid by the employee.

3 (4) If an employee moves his or her place of residence or employment out of the  
4 service area of an insurer offering a managed health care plan, under which he or  
5 she has elected coverage, into either the service area of another managed health care  
6 plan or into an area of the Commonwealth not within a managed health care plan  
7 service area, the employee shall be given an option, at the time of the move or  
8 transfer, to change his or her coverage to another health benefit plan.

9 (5) No payment of premium by any department, board, agency, public postsecondary  
10 educational institution, or branch of state, city, urban-county, charter county,  
11 county, or consolidated local government shall constitute compensation to an  
12 insured employee for the purposes of any statute fixing or limiting the  
13 compensation of such an employee. Any premium or other expense incurred by any  
14 department, board, agency, public postsecondary educational institution, or branch  
15 of state, city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local  
16 government shall be considered a proper cost of administration.

17 (6) The policy or policies may contain the provisions with respect to the class or classes  
18 of employees covered, amounts of insurance or coverage for designated classes or  
19 groups of employees, policy options, terms of eligibility, and continuation of  
20 insurance or coverage after retirement.

21 (7) Group rates under this section shall be made available to the disabled child of an  
22 employee regardless of the child's age if the entire premium for the disabled child's  
23 coverage is paid by the state employee. A child shall be considered disabled if he or  
24 she has been determined to be eligible for federal Social Security disability benefits.

25 (8) The health care contract or contracts for employees shall be entered into for a  
26 period of not less than one (1) year.

27 (9) The secretary shall appoint thirty-two (32) persons to an Advisory Committee of

1 State Health Insurance Subscribers to advise the secretary or the secretary's  
2 designee regarding the state-sponsored health insurance program for employees.  
3 The secretary shall appoint, from a list of names submitted by appointing  
4 authorities, members representing school districts from each of the seven (7)  
5 Supreme Court districts, members representing state government from each of the  
6 seven (7) Supreme Court districts, two (2) members representing retirees under age  
7 sixty-five (65), one (1) member representing local health departments, two (2)  
8 members representing the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, and three (3)  
9 members at large. The secretary shall also appoint two (2) members from a list of  
10 five (5) names submitted by the Kentucky Education Association, two (2) members  
11 from a list of five (5) names submitted by the largest state employee organization of  
12 nonschool state employees, two (2) members from a list of five (5) names submitted  
13 by the Kentucky Association of Counties, two (2) members from a list of five (5)  
14 names submitted by the Kentucky League of Cities, and two (2) members from a  
15 list of names consisting of five (5) names submitted by each state employee  
16 organization that has two thousand (2,000) or more members on state payroll  
17 deduction. The advisory committee shall be appointed in January of each year and  
18 shall meet quarterly.

19 (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the policy or policies  
20 provided to employees pursuant to this section shall not provide coverage for  
21 obtaining or performing an abortion, nor shall any state funds be used for the  
22 purpose of obtaining or performing an abortion on behalf of employees or their  
23 dependents.

24 (11) Interruption of an established treatment regime with maintenance drugs shall be  
25 grounds for an insured to appeal a formulary change through the established appeal  
26 procedures approved by the Department of Insurance, if the physician supervising  
27 the treatment certifies that the change is not in the best interests of the patient.

- 1 (12) Any employee who is eligible for and elects to participate in the state health  
2 insurance program as a retiree, or the spouse or beneficiary of a retiree, under any  
3 one (1) of the state-sponsored retirement systems shall not be eligible to receive the  
4 state health insurance contribution toward health care coverage as a result of any  
5 other employment for which there is a public employer contribution. This does not  
6 preclude a retiree and an active employee spouse from using both contributions to  
7 the extent needed for purchase of one (1) state sponsored health insurance policy  
8 for that plan year.
- 9 (13) (a) The policies of health insurance coverage procured under subsection (2) of  
10 this section shall include a mail-order drug option for maintenance drugs for  
11 state employees. Maintenance drugs may be dispensed by mail order in  
12 accordance with Kentucky law.
- 13 (b) A health insurer shall not discriminate against any retail pharmacy located  
14 within the geographic coverage area of the health benefit plan and that meets  
15 the terms and conditions for participation established by the insurer, including  
16 price, dispensing fee, and copay requirements of a mail-order option. The  
17 retail pharmacy shall not be required to dispense by mail.
- 18 (c) The mail-order option shall not permit the dispensing of a controlled  
19 substance classified in Schedule II.
- 20 (14) The policy or policies provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to  
21 this section shall provide coverage for obtaining a hearing aid and acquiring hearing  
22 aid-related services for insured individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, subject  
23 to a cap of one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400) every thirty-six (36) months  
24 pursuant to KRS 304.17A-132.
- 25 (15) Any policy provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to this section  
26 shall provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders  
27 consistent with KRS 304.17A-142.

- 1 (16) Any policy provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to this section  
2 shall provide coverage for obtaining amino acid-based elemental formula pursuant  
3 to KRS 304.17A-258.
- 4 (17) If a state employee's residence and place of employment are in the same county,  
5 and if the hospital located within that county does not offer surgical services,  
6 intensive care services, obstetrical services, level II neonatal services, diagnostic  
7 cardiac catheterization services, and magnetic resonance imaging services, the  
8 employee may select a plan available in a contiguous county that does provide  
9 those services, and the state contribution for the plan shall be the amount available  
10 in the county where the plan selected is located.
- 11 (18) If a state employee's residence and place of employment are each located in  
12 counties in which the hospitals do not offer surgical services, intensive care  
13 services, obstetrical services, level II neonatal services, diagnostic cardiac  
14 catheterization services, and magnetic resonance imaging services, the employee  
15 may select a plan available in a county contiguous to the county of residence that  
16 does provide those services, and the state contribution for the plan shall be the  
17 amount available in the county where the plan selected is located.
- 18 (19) The Personnel Cabinet is encouraged to study whether it is fair and reasonable and  
19 in the best interests of the state group to allow any carrier bidding to offer health  
20 care coverage under this section to submit bids that may vary county by county or  
21 by larger geographic areas.
- 22 (20) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the bid for proposals for health  
23 insurance coverage for calendar year 2004 shall include a bid scenario that reflects  
24 the statewide rating structure provided in calendar year 2003 and a bid scenario that  
25 allows for a regional rating structure that allows carriers to submit bids that may  
26 vary by region for a given product offering as described in this subsection:
- 27 (a) The regional rating bid scenario shall not include a request for bid on a

- 1 statewide option;
- 2 (b) The Personnel Cabinet shall divide the state into geographical regions which  
3 shall be the same as the partnership regions designated by the Department for  
4 Medicaid Services for purposes of the Kentucky Health Care Partnership  
5 Program established pursuant to 907 KAR 1:705;
- 6 (c) The request for proposal shall require a carrier's bid to include every county  
7 within the region or regions for which the bid is submitted and include but not  
8 be restricted to a preferred provider organization (PPO) option;
- 9 (d) If the Personnel Cabinet accepts a carrier's bid, the cabinet shall award the  
10 carrier all of the counties included in its bid within the region. If the Personnel  
11 Cabinet deems the bids submitted in accordance with this subsection to be in  
12 the best interests of state employees in a region, the cabinet may award the  
13 contract for that region to no more than two (2) carriers; and
- 14 (e) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the Personnel Cabinet from including  
15 other requirements or criteria in the request for proposal.
- 16 (21) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed on or  
17 after July 12, 2006, to public employees pursuant to this section which provides  
18 coverage for services rendered by a physician or osteopath duly licensed under KRS  
19 Chapter 311 that are within the scope of practice of an optometrist duly licensed  
20 under the provisions of KRS Chapter 320 shall provide the same payment of  
21 coverage to optometrists as allowed for those services rendered by physicians or  
22 osteopaths.
- 23 (22) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed to  
24 public employees pursuant to this section shall comply with:
- 25 (a) KRS 304.12-237;
- 26 (b) KRS 304.17A-270 and 304.17A-525;
- 27 (c) KRS 304.17A-600 to 304.17A-633;

- 1 (d) KRS 205.593;
- 2 (e) KRS 304.17A-700 to 304.17A-730;
- 3 (f) KRS 304.14-135;
- 4 (g) KRS 304.17A-580 and 304.17A-641;
- 5 (h) KRS 304.99-123;
- 6 (i) KRS 304.17A-138;
- 7 (j) KRS 304.17A-148;
- 8 (k) KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631;
- 9 (l) KRS 304.17A-265;
- 10 (m) KRS 304.17A-261;
- 11 (n) KRS 304.17A-262;~~and~~

12 **(o) Subsection (2)(b) of Section 1 of this Act; and**

13 ~~(p)(e)~~ Administrative regulations promulgated pursuant to statutes listed in this  
14 subsection.

15 ➔Section 5. KRS 164.2871 (Effective January 1, 2025) is amended to read as  
16 follows:

- 17 (1) The governing board of each state postsecondary educational institution is  
18 authorized to purchase liability insurance for the protection of the individual  
19 members of the governing board, faculty, and staff of such institutions from liability  
20 for acts and omissions committed in the course and scope of the individual's  
21 employment or service. Each institution may purchase the type and amount of  
22 liability coverage deemed to best serve the interest of such institution.
- 23 (2) All retirement annuity allowances accrued or accruing to any employee of a state  
24 postsecondary educational institution through a retirement program sponsored by  
25 the state postsecondary educational institution are hereby exempt from any state,  
26 county, or municipal tax, and shall not be subject to execution, attachment,  
27 garnishment, or any other process whatsoever, nor shall any assignment thereof be



1 enforceable in any court. Except retirement benefits accrued or accruing to any  
2 employee of a state postsecondary educational institution through a retirement  
3 program sponsored by the state postsecondary educational institution on or after  
4 January 1, 1998, shall be subject to the tax imposed by KRS 141.020, to the extent  
5 provided in KRS 141.010 and 141.0215.

6 (3) Except as provided in KRS Chapter 44, the purchase of liability insurance for  
7 members of governing boards, faculty and staff of institutions of higher education  
8 in this state shall not be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity or any  
9 other immunity or privilege.

10 (4) The governing board of each state postsecondary education institution is authorized  
11 to provide a self-insured employer group health plan to its employees, which plan  
12 shall:

13 (a) Conform to the requirements of Subtitle 32 of KRS Chapter 304; and

14 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, be exempt from  
15 conformity with Subtitle 17A of KRS Chapter 304.

16 (5) A self-insured employer group health plan provided by the governing board of a  
17 state postsecondary education institution to its employees shall comply with:

18 (a) KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631;

19 (b) KRS 304.17A-265;

20 (c) KRS 304.17A-261;~~and~~

21 (d) KRS 304.17A-262; **and**

22 **(e) Subsection (2)(b) of Section 1 of this Act.**

23 ➔Section 6. Sections 1, 4, and 5 of this Act apply to health benefit plans issued or  
24 renewed on or after January 1, 2025.

25 ➔Section 7. If the Cabinet for Health and Family Services determines that a  
26 waiver or any other authorization from a federal agency is necessary to implement  
27 Section 2 or 3 of this Act for any reason, including the loss of federal funds, the cabinet

1 shall, within 90 days after the effective date of this section, request the waiver or  
2 authorization and may only delay implementation of those provisions for which a waiver  
3 or authorization was deemed necessary until the waiver or authorization is granted.

4       ➔Section 8. Sections 1 to 6 of this Act take effect January 1, 2025.