

(2) TO ELECT THE COVERAGE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION, A QUALIFIED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY SHALL SUBMIT A SIGNED ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM TO THE EMPLOYER DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD.

(G) (1) EVERY CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO AN INSURED UNDER A GROUP CONTRACT SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT, IN A MANNER AND FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER, WHICH ADVISES THE INSURED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) THE AVAILABILITY OF THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION;

(II) A SUMMARY OF THE ELIGIBILITY FOR AND DURATION OF SUCH BENEFITS; AND

(III) THE PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AN ELECTION TO RECEIVE SUCH BENEFITS SHOULD AN APPLICABLE CHANGE IN STATUS OCCUR.

(2) THE EMPLOYER SHALL, WITHIN 14 DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A REQUEST, DELIVER OR SEND BY FIRST CLASS MAIL AN ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM TO THE QUALIFIED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY OR AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

(H) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

(1) PUBLISH AT LEAST ONCE ANNUALLY IN THE MARYLAND REGISTER AND IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN EACH OF THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE AND BALTIMORE CITY NOTICE APPRISING THE PUBLIC OF THE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION;

(2) BY REGULATION PRESCRIBE THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM; AND

(3) MAKE ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORMS AVAILABLE TO EVERY EMPLOYER WHOSE EMPLOYEES ARE COVERED BY A GROUP CONTRACT.

(I) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL AFFECT OR IN ANY WAY LIMIT A QUALIFIED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY'S RIGHT TO CONVERSION PRIVILEGES UNDER A GROUP CONTRACT.

(J) AN EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO PROVIDE NOTICE OR AN ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO THE QUALIFIED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY OR THE INSURED FOR BENEFITS WHICH WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN PAYABLE OR OTHER DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OR FORM.

(K) NOTICE OF THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE PROVIDED BY:

(1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE AS SPECIFIED IN § 4-217 OF HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE; AND