

~~(1) SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT THE GROUP IS A VALID EMPLOYER AND IS NOT FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE;~~

~~(2) ASSURANCES THAT INDIVIDUALS IN THE EMPLOYER GROUP ARE EMPLOYEES AND NOT ADDED FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECURING HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE;~~

~~(3) REQUIREMENTS THAT A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS OBTAIN COVERAGE UNDER HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS OFFERED THROUGH THE REGIONAL HEALTH COOPERATIVE; AND~~

~~(4) PREPAYMENT OF PREMIUMS OR OTHER MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT PAYMENT WILL BE MADE FOR COVERAGE.~~

~~(C) THE REGIONAL HEALTH COOPERATIVE MAY REQUIRE MEMBER EMPLOYERS TO AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME, NOT TO EXCEED 1 YEAR, AND MAY INCLUDE IN ANY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYERS A REQUIREMENT FOR A FINANCIAL DEPOSIT OR PROVISION FOR FINANCIAL PENALTY THAT WOULD BE INVOKED IN THE EVENT THE MEMBER EMPLOYER VIOLATES THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.~~

~~753. CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.~~

~~EVERY HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN WHICH IS OFFERED THROUGH A REGIONAL HEALTH COOPERATIVE SHALL PROVIDE CONTINUATION COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER §§ 490G, 490H, AND 490 I OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~754. SALES OR OFFERS TO SELL HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS.~~

~~A CARRIER MAY NOT SELL OR OFFER TO SELL A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THROUGH A REGIONAL HEALTH COOPERATIVE EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly for the Governor to provide funding for the startup costs for the Regional Health Cooperatives beginning on July 1, 1994. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Governor may provide a deficiency appropriation in the budget submitted at the 1995 Legislative Session in order to provide funding to support the startup costs of the Regional Health Cooperatives.~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the captions and catchlines contained in this Act are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as part of this Act.~~

~~SECTION 4. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July ~~June~~ 1, 1994.~~

May 26, 1994

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.