

Approved May 25, 1995.

## CHAPTER 604

(House Bill 724)

AN ACT concerning

## Patient Access Act

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring certain carriers that use certain panels of providers to provide certain services to enrollees to establish certain criteria and procedures for membership on those panels and maintain the criteria and procedures at a certain location for a certain purpose and under certain circumstances; requiring a carrier to provide the criteria and procedures to any provider requesting an application for membership on a carrier's provider panel; requiring the Insurance Commission and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations relating to the criteria and procedures; providing certain review and appeal procedures to certain persons under certain circumstances; prohibiting a carrier from denying membership on a panel on the basis of gender, race, age, religion, national origin, or disability; prohibiting a carrier from restricting or terminating membership on a provider panel under certain circumstances; authorizing a carrier to restrict membership on a provider panel under certain circumstances; requiring carriers to include certain information in the carrier's marketing materials; requiring a carrier that terminates a participating provider for certain reasons to continue to reimburse the provider a certain amount for a certain period of time; requiring certain insurers, including health maintenance organizations, to reimburse certain providers, including pharmacy providers, in a certain manner under certain circumstances; providing that certain enrollee and subscriber liability provisions are not applicable under certain circumstances; providing a certain exception; defining certain terms; making provisions of this Act severable; requiring a certain carrier, that uses a provider panel to provide certain health care services to enrollees, to establish certain procedures for notifying enrollees and certain individuals of certain information and for formulating the carrier's provider panel in a certain manner; requiring a carrier to provide an application for participation in its provider panel, and certain other information, to any provider upon request; requiring a carrier to take certain action in regard to an application for participation in the carrier's provider panel within a certain time and under certain circumstances; authorizing a carrier to charge a certain fee for any application a provider submits to the carrier; requiring a carrier to provide to new members and existing enrollees certain information under certain circumstances; prohibiting a carrier from denying participation or terminating participation in its provider panel on the basis of gender, race, age, religion, national origin, or disability and under certain other circumstances; requiring a carrier to establish an internal review system for a certain purpose; requiring a provider being terminated from a carrier's provider panel to continue to provide health care services to enrollees for a certain period after the date of the notice of the provider's termination under certain~~