

Sept. 2, 1974, 88 Stat. 829, as amended. Part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the Act is classified generally to part 6 (§1161 et seq.) of subtitle B of subchapter I of chapter 18 of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1001 of Title 29 and Tables.

Section 2702, referred to in subsec. (d)(9), is a reference to section 2702 of act July 1, 1944. Section 2702, which was classified to section 300gg-1 of this title, was amended by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1201(3), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 154, and was transferred to subsecs. (b) to (f) of section 300gg-4 of this title, effective for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2014. A new section 2702, related to guaranteed availability of coverage, was added by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1201(4), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 156, effective for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2014, and is classified to section 300gg-1 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 114-60, §2(b)(1), substituted “51” for “101”.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 114-60, §2(b)(2), substituted “50” for “100”.

Subsec. (e)(7). Pub. L. 114-60, §2(b)(3), added par. (7).
2010—Subsec. (d)(20), (21). Pub. L. 111-148, §1563(b), formerly §1562(b), as renumbered by Pub. L. 111-148, §10107(b)(1), added pars. (20) and (21).

Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 111-148, §1563(c)(16)(A), formerly §1562(c)(16)(A), as renumbered by Pub. L. 111-148, §10107(b)(1), substituted “101” for “51”.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 111-148, §1563(c)(16)(B), formerly §1562(c)(16)(B), as renumbered by Pub. L. 111-148, §10107(b)(1), substituted “100” for “50” and “at least 1” for “at least 2” in two places.

2008—Subsec. (d)(15) to (19). Pub. L. 110-233 added pars. (15) to (19).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-233 applicable, with respect to group health plans and health insurance coverage offered in connection with group health plans, for plan years beginning after the date that is one year after May 21, 2008, and, with respect to health insurance coverage offered, sold, issued, renewed, in effect, or operated in the individual market, after the date that is one year after May 21, 2008, see section 102(d)(2) of Pub. L. 110-233, set out as a note under section 300gg-21 of this title.

§ 300gg-92. Regulations

The Secretary, consistent with section 104 of the Health Care Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this subchapter. The Secretary may promulgate any interim final rules as the Secretary determines are appropriate to carry out this subchapter.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, §2792, as added Pub. L. 104-191, title I, §102(a), Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1976.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 104 of the Health Care Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, referred to in text, probably means section 104 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-191, set out below.

ASSURING COORDINATION AMONG DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND LABOR

Pub. L. 104-191, title I, §104, Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1978, provided that: “The Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Labor shall ensure, through the execution of

an interagency memorandum of understanding among such Secretaries, that—

“(1) regulations, rulings, and interpretations issued by such Secretaries relating to the same matter over which two or more such Secretaries have responsibility under this subtitle [subtitle A (§§101-104) of title I of Pub. L. 104-191, enacting this section, sections 300gg, 300gg-1, 300gg-11 to 300gg-13, 300gg-21 to 300gg-23, and 300gg-91 of this title, and sections 1181 to 1183 and 1191 to 1191c of Title 29, Labor, amending sections 300e and 300bb-8 of this title and sections 1003, 1021, 1022, 1024, 1132, 1136, and 1144 of Title 29, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 300gg of this title and section 1181 of Title 29] (and the amendments made by this subtitle and section 401 [enacting sections 9801 to 9806 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code]) are administered so as to have the same effect at all times; and

“(2) coordination of policies relating to enforcing the same requirements through such Secretaries in order to have a coordinated enforcement strategy that avoids duplication of enforcement efforts and assigns priorities in enforcement.”

§ 300gg-93. Health insurance consumer information

(a) In general

The Secretary shall award grants to States to enable such States (or the Exchanges operating in such States) to establish, expand, or provide support for—

- (1) offices of health insurance consumer assistance; or
- (2) health insurance ombudsman programs.

(b) Eligibility

(1) In general

To be eligible to receive a grant, a State shall designate an independent office of health insurance consumer assistance, or an ombudsman, that, directly or in coordination with State health insurance regulators and consumer assistance organizations, receives and responds to inquiries and complaints concerning health insurance coverage with respect to Federal health insurance requirements and under State law.

(2) Criteria

A State that receives a grant under this section shall comply with criteria established by the Secretary for carrying out activities under such grant.

(c) Duties

The office of health insurance consumer assistance or health insurance ombudsman shall—

- (1) assist with the filing of complaints and appeals, including filing appeals with the internal appeal or grievance process of the group health plan or health insurance issuer involved and providing information about the external appeal process;
- (2) collect, track, and quantify problems and inquiries encountered by consumers;
- (3) educate consumers on their rights and responsibilities with respect to group health plans and health insurance coverage;
- (4) assist consumers with enrollment in a group health plan or health insurance coverage by providing information, referral, and assistance; and
- (5) resolve problems with obtaining premium tax credits under section 36B of title 26.