

HOUSE BILL NO. 1376

Introduced by

Representatives Price, Kreidt, Nottestad, Weisz

Senators Brown, Dever

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 26.1-53 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to duties of providers and marketers of discount medical plans and cards.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 26.1-53 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
5 enacted as follows:

6 **26.1-53-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
7 requires:

- 8 1. "Discount medical plan" means any card, program, device, or mechanism that is
9 not insurance which purports to offer discounts or access to discounts from a
10 provider without recourse to the discount medical plan.
- 11 2. "Discount medical plan organization" means a person that, in exchange for fees,
12 dues, charges, or other consideration, provides access for plan members to a
13 discount medical plan.
- 14 3. "Marketer" means a person that markets, promotes, sells, or distributes a discount
15 medical plan.
- 16 4. "Medical services" means any care, service, or treatment of illness or dysfunction
17 of, or injury to, the human body, including physician care, inpatient care, hospital
18 surgical services, emergency services, ambulance services, dental care services,
19 vision care services, mental health services, substance abuse services,
20 chiropractic services, podiatric care services, and laboratory services. The term
21 does not include pharmaceutical supplies or prescriptions.
- 22 5. "Member" means any person that pays fees, dues, charges, or other consideration
23 for the right to receive the benefits of a discount medical plan.

- 1 6. "Provider" means any person that is contracted, directly or indirectly, with a
2 discount medical plan organization to provide medical services to members.
3 7. "Provider network" means a person that negotiates on behalf of more than one
4 provider with a discount medical plan organization to provide medial services to
5 members.

6 **26.1-53-02. Prohibited activities of a discount medical plan organization or**

7 **marketer.** A discount medical plan organization may not:

- 8 1. Use in its advertisements, marketing material, brochures, and discount cards the
9 term "insurance" except as otherwise provided under this chapter.
10 2. Use in its advertisements, marketing material, brochures, and discount cards the
11 terms "health plan", "coverage", "copay", "copayments", "preexisting conditions",
12 "guaranteed issue", "premium", "enrollment", "PPO", "preferred provider
13 organization", or other terms that could reasonably mislead a person into believing
14 the discount medical plan is insurance.
15 3. Have restrictions on free access to plan providers, including waiting periods and
16 notification periods.
17 4. Pay providers any fees for medical services.

18 **26.1-53-03. Disclosures.**

- 19 1. A discount medical plan organization or marketer shall disclose clearly and
20 conspicuously in writing to any prospective member and on the first page of any
21 advertisements, marketing materials, or brochures relating to a discount medical
22 plan:
23 a. That the plan is not an insurance policy.
24 b. That the plan provides discounts at certain health care providers for medical
25 services.
26 c. That the plan member is obligated to pay for all health care services but will
27 receive a discount from those health care providers that have contracted with
28 the discount medical plan organization.
29 d. The name, address, and telephone number of the discount medical plan
30 organization and the marketer.
31 e. The cancellation and refund rights provided under section 26.1-53-08.

1 2. The discount medical plan organization or marketer in solicitations conducted
2 through telemarketing shall disclose orally to prospective members the required
3 disclosures provided under subsection 1.

4 **26.1-53-04. Provider agreements.**

5 1. All providers offering medical services to members under a discount medical plan
6 shall provide such services pursuant to a written agreement with the discount
7 medical plan organization. The agreement may be entered directly by the provider
8 or by a provider network to which the provider belongs.

9 2. A provider agreement must provide the following:

10 a. A list of the services and products to be provided at a discount.

11 b. The amount or amounts of the discounts or, alternatively, a fee schedule that
12 reflects the provider's discounted rates.

13 c. That the provider will not charge members more than the discounted rates.

14 3. A provider agreement between a discount medical plan organization and a provider
15 network must require that the provider network have written agreements with the
16 provider network's providers which:

17 a. Comply with subsection 2.

18 b. Authorize the provider network to contract with the discount medical plan
19 organization on behalf of the provider.

20 c. Require the provider network to maintain an up-to-date list of the provider
21 network's contracted providers and to provide that list on a monthly basis to
22 the discount medical plan organization.

23 4. The discount medical plan organization shall maintain a copy of each active
24 provider agreement and provide copies of the agreements to the commissioner,
25 upon written request.

26 **26.1-53-05. Provider name listing.** Each discount medical plan organization shall
27 maintain an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of the providers with which the discount
28 medical plan organization has contracted, and the discounts provided by those providers, on a
29 web site on the internet, the address of which must be prominently displayed on all the discount
30 medical plan organization advertisements, marketing materials, brochures, and discount cards.
31 This section applies to those providers with which the discount medical plan organization has

1 contracted directly, as well as those that are members of a provider network with which the
2 discount medical plan organization has contracted.

3 **26.1-53-06. Marketing of discount medical plans.**

4 1. All advertisements, marketing materials, brochures, and discount cards used by
5 marketers must be approved in writing for such use by the discount medical plan
6 organization.

7 2. The discount medical plan organization must have an executed written agreement
8 with a marketer before the marketer's marketing, promoting, selling, or distributing
9 the discount medical plan and must be responsible and financially liable for any
10 acts of the discount medical plan organization marketers that do not comply with
11 the provisions of this chapter.

12 **26.1-53-07. Bundling discount medical plans with insurance products prohibited.**

13 A marketer or discount medical plan organization may not solicit, market, or sell a discount
14 medical plan together with any insurance product.

15 **26.1-53-08. Cancellation and refunds.**

16 1. A discount medical plan shall permit members to cancel at any time. If cancellation
17 occurs within thirty days of purchase, the discount medical plan shall provide within
18 thirty days of notice of cancellation a full refund to the canceling member. In the
19 event of cancellation of the membership by either party, if a discount medical plan
20 charges for a time period in excess of one month, the plan shall make a pro rata
21 refund to the member.

22 2. The medical discount plan organization or marketer shall provide the member with
23 written notice of cancellation rights within ten days of purchase. The notice of
24 cancellation rights must be clearly and conspicuously disclosed, printed in not less
25 than twelve-point boldfaced type, in substantially the following form: "NOTICE OF
26 CANCELLATION. You may cancel this transaction, or your medical discount plan
27 at any time. If you cancel within thirty days of purchase, you will receive a full
28 refund. If you cancel anytime thereafter you are entitled to a pro rata refund.
29 Notice of cancellation is considered given when delivered in hand, deposited in a
30 mailbox, properly addressed and postage prepaid, or e-mailed to the e-mail
31 address of the discount medical plan organization or marketer."

1 3. Cancellation occurs when notice of cancellation is given to the discount medical
2 plan organization or marketer.

3 4. Notice of cancellation is deemed given when delivered in hand, deposited in a
4 mailbox, properly addressed and postage prepaid, or e-mailed to the e-mail
5 address of the discount medical plan organization or marketer.

6 **26.1-53-09. Enforcement - Powers - Remedies - Penalties.** The commissioner or the
7 attorney general may enforce this chapter. The attorney general, in enforcing this chapter, has
8 all the powers provided in this chapter or chapter 51-15 and may seek all remedies in this
9 chapter or chapter 51-15. A violation of this chapter is deemed a violation of chapter 51-15.
10 The remedies, duties, prohibitions, and penalties of this chapter are not exclusive and are in
11 addition to all other causes of action, remedies, and penalties under chapter 51-15, or
12 otherwise provided by law.