

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFIT ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 106 of 2007

124.75 Medical, optical, or dental benefits provided to public employees; methods; solicitation of bids; number; frequency; participation of public employer in purchasing pool or coalition.

Sec. 5. (1) Subject to collective bargaining requirements, a public employer may provide medical, optical, or dental benefits to public employees and their dependents by any of the following methods:

(a) By establishing and maintaining a plan on a self-insured basis. A plan under this subdivision does not constitute doing the business of insurance in this state and is not subject to the insurance laws of this state.

(b) By joining with other public employers and establishing and maintaining a public employer pooled plan to provide medical, optical, or dental benefits to not fewer than 250 public employees on a self-insured basis as provided in this act. A pooled plan shall accept any public employer that applies to become a member of the pooled plan, agrees to make the required payments, agrees to remain in the pool for a 3-year period, and satisfies the other reasonable provisions of the pooled plan. A public employer that leaves a pooled plan may not rejoin the pooled plan for 2 years after leaving the plan. A pooled plan under this subdivision does not constitute doing the business of insurance in this state and, except as provided in this act, is not subject to the insurance laws of this state. A pooled plan under this subdivision may enter into contracts and sue or be sued in its own name.

(c) By procuring coverage or benefits from 1 or more carriers, either on an individual basis or with 1 or more other public employers.

(2) A public employer or pooled plan procuring coverage or benefits from 1 or more carriers shall solicit from different carriers 4 or more bids when establishing a medical benefit plan, including at least 1 bid from a voluntary employees' beneficiary association described in section 501(c)(9) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 501(c)(9). A public employer or pooled plan procuring coverage or benefits from 1 or more carriers shall solicit from different carriers 4 or more bids every 3 years when renewing or continuing a medical benefit plan, including at least 1 bid from a voluntary employees' beneficiary association described in section 501(c)(9) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 501(c)(9). A public employer or pooled plan that provides for administration of a medical benefit plan using an authorized third party administrator, an insurer, a nonprofit health care corporation, or other entity authorized to provide services in connection with a noninsured medical benefit plan shall solicit from different carriers 4 or more bids for those administrative services when establishing a medical benefit plan. A public employer or pooled plan that provides for administration of a medical benefit plan using an authorized third party administrator, an insurer, a nonprofit health care corporation, or other entity authorized to provide services in connection with a noninsured medical benefit plan shall solicit from different carriers 4 or more bids for those administrative services every 3 years when renewing or continuing a medical benefit plan.

(3) This act does not prohibit a public employer from participating, for the payment of medical benefits and claims, in a purchasing pool or coalition to procure insurance, benefits, or coverage, or health care plan services or administrative services.

(4) A public university may establish a medical benefit plan to provide medical, dental, or optical benefits to its employees and their dependents by any of the methods set forth in this section.

(5) A medical benefit plan that provides medical benefits shall provide to covered individuals case management services that meet the case management accreditation standards established by the national committee on quality assurance, the joint commission on health care organizations, or the utilization review accreditation commission.

History: 2007, Act 106, Imd. Eff. Oct. 1, 2007;—Am. 2011, Act 93, Eff. Oct. 1, 2011.