A bill to be entitled

An act relating to out-of-network health insurance coverage; amending s. 395.003, F.S.; requiring hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, specialty hospitals, and urgent care centers to comply with certain provisions as a condition of licensure; amending s. 395.301, F.S.; requiring a hospital to post on its website certain information regarding its contracts with health insurers, health maintenance organizations, and health care practitioners and medical practice groups and specified notice to patients and prospective patients; amending s. 408.7057, F.S.; providing requirements for settlement offers between certain providers and health plans in a specified dispute resolution program; requiring a final order to be subject to judicial review; amending ss. 456.072, 458.331, and 459.015, F.S.; providing additional acts that constitute grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary action, to which penalties apply; amending s. 626.9541, F.S.; specifying an additional unfair method of competition and unfair or deceptive act or practice; creating s. 627.64194, F.S.; defining terms; providing that an insurer is solely liable for payment of certain fees to a nonparticipating provider; providing limitations and requirements for reimbursements by an insurer to a

nonparticipating provider; providing that certain disputes relating to reimbursement of a nonparticipating provider shall be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction or through a specified voluntary dispute resolution process; amending s. 627.6471, F.S.; requiring an insurer that issues a policy including coverage for the services of a preferred provider to post on its website certain information about participating providers and physicians; requiring that specified notice be included in policies issued after a specified date which provide coverage for the services of a preferred provider; amending s. 627.662, F.S.; providing applicability of provisions relating to coverage for services and payment collection limitations to group health insurance, blanket health insurance, and franchise health insurance; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (5) of section 395.003, Florida Statutes, to read:

395.003 Licensure; denial, suspension, and revocation.—

(5)

(d) A hospital, an ambulatory surgical center, a specialty hospital, or an urgent care center shall comply with ss. 627.64194 and 641.513 as a condition of licensure.

Section 2. Subsection (13) is added to section 395.301, Florida Statutes, to read:

395.301 Itemized patient bill; form and content prescribed by the agency; patient admission status notification.—

(13) A hospital shall post on its website:

(a) The names and hyperlinks for direct access to the websites of all health insurers and health maintenance organizations for which the hospital contracts as a network provider or preferred provider.

(b) A statement that:

1. Services may be provided in the hospital by the facility as well as by other health care practitioners who may separately bill the patient;

2. Health care practitioners who provide services in the hospital may or may not participate with the same health insurers or health maintenance organizations as the hospital; and

3. Prospective patients should contact the health care practitioner who will provide services in the hospital to determine the health insurers and health maintenance organizations with which he or she participates as a network provider or preferred provider.

(c) As applicable, the names, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of the health care practitioners and medical practice groups with which it contracts to provide services in the hospital and instructions on how to contact the practitioners and groups to determine the health insurers and health maintenance organizations with which they participate as a network provider or preferred provider.

Section 3. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (2) of section 408.7057, Florida Statutes, and subsection (4) of that section is amended, to read:

408.7057 Statewide provider and health plan claim dispute resolution program.—

(2)

(h) Either the contracted or noncontracted provider or the health plan may make an offer to settle the claim dispute when it submits a request for a claim dispute and supporting documentation. The offer to settle the claim dispute must state its total amount, and the party to whom it is directed has 15 days to accept the offer once it is received. If the party receiving the offer does not accept the offer and the final order amount is greater than 90 percent or less than 110 percent of the offer amount, the party receiving the offer must pay the final order amount to the offering party and is deemed a nonprevailing party for purposes of this section. The amount of an offer made by a contracted or noncontracted provider to settle an alleged underpayment by the health plan must be

greater than 110 percent of the reimbursement amount the provider received. The amount of an offer made by a health plan to settle an alleged overpayment to the provider must be less than 90 percent of the alleged overpayment amount by the health plan. Both parties may agree to settle the disputed claim at any time, for any amount, regardless of whether an offer to settle was made or rejected.

(4) Within 30 days after receipt of the recommendation of the resolution organization, the agency shall adopt the recommendation as a final order. The final order is subject to judicial review pursuant to s. 120.68.

Section 4. Paragraph (oo) is added to subsection (1) of section 456.072, Florida Statutes, to read:

456.072 Grounds for discipline; penalties; enforcement.—

(1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken:

(oo) Willfully failing to comply with s. 627.64194 or s. 641.513 with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice.

Section 5. Paragraph (tt) is added to subsection (1) of section 458.331, Florida Statutes, to read:

458.331 Grounds for disciplinary action; action by the board and department.—

(1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2):

(tt) Willfully failing to comply with s. 627.64194 or s. 641.513 with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice.

Section 6. Paragraph (vv) is added to subsection (1) of section 459.015, Florida Statutes, to read:

459.015 Grounds for disciplinary action; action by the board and department.—

(1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2):

(vv) Willfully failing to comply with s. 627.64194 or s. 641.513 with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice.

Section 7. Paragraph (gg) is added to subsection (1) of section 626.9541, Florida Statutes, to read:

626.9541 Unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices defined.—

(1) UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION AND UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS.—The following are defined as unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices:

(gg) Out-of-network reimbursement.—Willfully failing to comply with s. 627.64194 with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice.

Section 8. Section 627.64194, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

627.64194 Coverage requirements for services provided by nonparticipating providers; payment collection limitations.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Emergency services" means the services and care to treat an emergency medical condition as defined in s. 641.47(8).

(b) "Facility" means a licensed facility as defined in s. 395.002(16) and an urgent care center as defined in s. 395.002(30).

(c) "Insured" means a person who is covered under an individual or group health insurance policy delivered or issued for delivery in this state by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state.

(d) "Nonemergency services" means the services and care to treat a condition other than an emergency medical condition.

(e) "Nonparticipating provider" means a provider who is not a preferred provider as defined in s. 627.6471 or a provider who is not an exclusive provider as defined in s. 627.6472. For purposes of covered emergency services under this section, a facility licensed under chapter 395 or an urgent care center defined in s. 395.002(30) is a nonparticipating provider if the facility or center has not contracted with an insurer to provide emergency services to its insureds at a specified rate.

(f) "Participating provider" means a preferred provider as defined in s. 627.6471 or an exclusive provider as defined in s. 627.6472.

(2) An insurer is solely liable for payment of fees to a nonparticipating provider of covered emergency services provided to an insured in accordance with the coverage terms of the

health insurance policy, and such insured is not liable for payment of fees for covered services to a nonparticipating provider of emergency services, other than applicable copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. An insurer must provide coverage for emergency services that:

(a) May not require prior authorization.

(b) Must be provided regardless of whether the services are furnished by a participating provider or a nonparticipating provider.

(c) May impose a coinsurance amount, copayment, or limitation of benefits requirement for a nonparticipating provider only if the same requirement applies to a participating provider.

The provisions of s. 627.638 apply to this subsection.

(3) An insurer is solely liable for payment of fees to a nonparticipating provider of covered nonemergency services provided to an insured in accordance with the coverage terms of the health insurance policy, and such insured is not liable for payment of fees to a nonparticipating provider, other than applicable copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, for covered nonemergency services that are:

(a) Provided in a facility that has a contract for the nonemergency services with the insurer which the facility would be otherwise obligated to provide under contract with the insurer; and

(b) Provided when the insured does not have the ability and opportunity to choose a participating provider at the facility who is available to treat the insured.

The provisions of s. 627.638 apply to this subsection.

(4) An insurer must reimburse a nonparticipating provider of services under subsections (2) and (3) as specified in s. 641.513(5), reduced only by insured cost-share responsibilities as specified in the health insurance policy, within the applicable timeframe provided in s. 627.6131.

(5) A nonparticipating provider of emergency services as provided in subsection (2) or a nonparticipating provider of nonemergency services as provided in subsection (3) may not be reimbursed an amount greater than the amount provided in subsection (4) and may not collect or attempt to collect from the insured, directly or indirectly, any excess amount, other than copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. This section does not prohibit a nonparticipating provider from collecting or attempting to collect from the insured an amount due for the provision of noncovered services.

(6) Any dispute with regard to the reimbursement to the nonparticipating provider of emergency or nonemergency services as provided in subsection (4) shall be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction or through the voluntary dispute resolution process in s. 408.7057.

Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 627.6471, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.6471 Contracts for reduced rates of payment; limitations; coinsurance and deductibles.—

(2) Any insurer issuing a policy of health insurance in this state, which insurance includes coverage for the services of a preferred provider, must provide each policyholder and certificateholder with a current list of preferred providers and must make the list available on its website. The list must include, when applicable and reported, a listing by specialty of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all participating providers, including facilities, and, in the case of physicians, must also include board certifications, languages spoken, and any affiliations with participating hospitals. Information posted on the insurer's website must be updated on at least a calendar-month basis with additions or terminations of providers from the insurer's network or reported changes in physicians' hospital affiliations ~~for public inspection during regular business hours at the principal office of the insurer within the state~~.

Section 10. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsection (7) is added to section 627.6471, Florida Statutes, to read:

627.6471 Contracts for reduced rates of payment; limitations; coinsurance and deductibles.—

(7) Any policy issued under this section after January 1, 2017, must include the following disclosure: "WARNING: LIMITED BENEFITS WILL BE PAID WHEN NONPARTICIPATING PROVIDERS ARE USED. You should be aware that when you elect to utilize the services of a nonparticipating provider for a covered nonemergency service, benefit payments to the provider are not based upon the amount the provider charges. The basis of the payment will be determined according to your policy's out-of-network reimbursement benefit. Nonparticipating providers may bill insureds for any difference in the amount. YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY MORE THAN THE COINSURANCE OR COPAYMENT AMOUNT. Participating providers have agreed to accept discounted payments for services with no additional billing to you other than coinsurance, copayment, and deductible amounts. You may obtain further information about the providers who have contracted with your insurance plan by consulting your insurer's website or contacting your insurer or agent directly."

Section 11. Subsection (15) is added to section 627.662, Florida Statutes, to read:

627.662 Other provisions applicable.—The following provisions apply to group health insurance, blanket health insurance, and franchise health insurance:

(15) Section 627.64194, relating to coverage requirements for services provided by nonparticipating providers and payment collection limitations.

Section 12. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect October 1, 2016.