

ASSEMBLY, No. 2618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 16, 1996

By Assemblymen MALONE, COTTRELL, Assemblywoman Heck, Assemblymen Augustine, Romano, DeSopo, Assemblywoman Wright and Assemblyman Kramer

1 AN ACT concerning the State Health Benefits Program and  
2 supplementing P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.).  
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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:  
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7 1. The State Health Benefits Commission shall ensure that every  
8 contract purchased by the commission on or after the effective date of  
9 this act provides that if an enrollee's or member's primary care  
10 physician's contract as a participating physician in a health maintenance  
11 organization or NJ PLUS will be terminated, the health maintenance  
12 organization or NJ PLUS, as appropriate, shall provide the enrollee or  
13 member with 90-days notice of the termination. If 90-days notice  
14 cannot be provided because the termination will occur prior to the end  
15 of the 90-day period, the health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS  
16 shall notify the enrollee or member as soon as the health maintenance  
17 organization or NJ PLUS has knowledge of the termination.

18 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any policy governing open  
19 enrollment to the contrary, an enrollee or member who has been  
20 notified by a health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS pursuant to  
21 this section may change his coverage to another health benefits plan  
22 under the State Health Benefits Program upon receiving notice that his  
23 primary care physician will no longer be a participating physician with  
24 the health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS, in which the person  
25 is currently enrolled.  
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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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30 STATEMENT  
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32 This bill requires the State Health Benefits Program to ensure that  
33 any person covered under the program who is enrolled in a health  
34 maintenance organization or the NJ PLUS plan, shall be provided with  
35 90-days notice if that person's primary care physician will be

1 terminated from the provider network. Upon receiving such  
2 notification, the covered person shall be permitted to change his  
3 coverage to another health benefits plan, even though the physician's  
4 termination may occur outside of the annual open enrollment period.

5 The provisions of this bill will give public employees covered under  
6 the State Health Benefits Program who are enrollees of health  
7 maintenance organizations or participants in NJ PLUS, more flexibility  
8 in selecting a new primary care physician if their physician's  
9 participation in their current plan is terminated prior to the annual  
10 open enrollment period.

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15 Requires State Health Benefits Program managed care plans to give  
16 90-days notice to enrollees if primary care physician is terminated from  
17 plan.