7-1-1986


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Recommended Citation

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Chapter No. 713. Health maintenance organizations -- must be allowed to bid or provide services. Amends TCA Title 56, Chapter 32 to enact extensive new regulations of health maintenance organizations (HMO's). Section 23 of the Act requires each public or private employer, including municipalities, which offers its employees a health benefit plan and employs not less than 25 employees to afford at least 2 qualified HMO's the opportunity to bid or to provide health care services. The Act requires that this "dual offering" is contingent upon written requests being received from the HMO's for inclusion in health benefit plan and is further contingent on the HMO's being different types or models. Where there is a collective bargaining agreement, the selection of the HMO must be made under the agreement.

The Act provides that no employer shall be required to pay more for health benefits as a result of these requirements than would otherwise be required under any prevailing collective bargaining agreement. The employer must pay the HMO the lesser of (1) the amount paid on behalf of its other employees or members for health benefit or (2) the HMO's charge for coverage approved by the Commissioner or Commerce and Insurance.

Effective date: April 8, 1986.
Chapter No. 939. Education -- alternative schools. Amends TCA 49-6-3402 to require that alternative schools be made available to students in grades 7 through 12 who have been expelled or suspended as provided for in that TCA chapter. The Act requires that the alternative schools will be operated under funds now provided for in the Department of Education's budget.

Effective date: May 29, 1986.

Chapter No. 942. Volunteer fire departments -- governmental entities for tort liability purposes. Amends TCA 29-20-102(3) to add non-profit volunteer fire departments receiving funds appropriated by a municipality's or county's governing body to the definition of "governmental entity" for tort liability purposes.

Effective date: May 29, 1986.

NOTE: The public act number of the 1986 Appropriations Act, which is only asterisked in the "Summary of 1986 Public Acts," is Chapter No. 937.