

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5121

To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to require health insurance issuers to maintain a price comparison tool, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Mr. BEYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to require health insurance issuers to maintain a price comparison tool, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Healthcare Cost
5 Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUERS TO MAIN-**
2 **TAIN A PRICE COMPARISON TOOL.**

3 (a) PHSA.—Section 2709 of the Public Health Serv-
4 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–9) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(c) MAINTENANCE OF PRICE COMPARISON TOOL.—
7 In connection with the offering of any health insurance
8 coverage in a geographic area for a plan year beginning
9 on or after January 1, 2020, a health insurance issuer
10 shall employ an individual to offer price comparison guid-
11 ance or make available on an Internet website a price com-
12 parison tool that (to the extent practicable) allows an indi-
13 vidual enrolled under such coverage, with respect to such
14 plan year and such geographic area, to compare the
15 amount (determined by historic claims data of partici-
16 pating providers with respect to such coverage) of cost-
17 sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsur-
18 ance) that the individual would be responsible for paying
19 under such plan with respect to the furnishing of a specific
20 item or service by any of such providers.”.

21 (b) FEHB.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8902 of title 5,
23 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new subsection:

25 “(p) A contract for a plan under this chapter, chapter
26 89A, or 89B shall require the applicable carrier to make

1 available on an Internet website an individual to offer
2 price comparison guidance or the price comparison tool,
3 as described under subsection (c) of section 2709 of Public
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-9).”.

5 (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by
6 paragraph (1) shall apply to contract years begin-
7 ning in 2020.

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