

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 2777

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

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District 37 (Bergen)

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District 38 (Bergen)

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SYNOPSIS

Modifies process to credential licensed health care professionals in carrier provider network.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.



1 AN ACT concerning certain health care credentials and amending
2 P.L.1997, c.192 and amending and supplementing P.L.2001,
3 c.88.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 7 of P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-7) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 7. a. (1) Each application for [participation] initial
11 credentialing or credential renewal by a licensed health care
12 professional that is submitted to a carrier which offers a managed
13 care plan shall be reviewed by a committee of the carrier that
14 includes appropriate representation of health care professionals with
15 knowledge in the applicant's scope of professional practice.

16 (2) A carrier shall make available on its Internet website:

17 (a) the universal application for initial credentialing and renewal
18 forms; and

19 (b) an explanation of the credentialing process, including a list
20 of all the documents required for initial credentialing and renewal,
21 and any relevant timelines.

22 b. Upon receipt of an application submitted by a licensed health
23 care professional for initial credentialing or credential renewal, a
24 committee shall:

25 (1) deem the application approved if the information included as
26 part of the application demonstrates the license of the health care
27 professional as issued by the relevant State licensing board is in
28 good standing; or

29 (2) if the application is incomplete, notify the applicant health
30 care professional, within 45 days after the submission of a hardcopy
31 application or 30 days after the submission of an electronic
32 application, specifying in the notice all the information that is
33 missing. If the requested information is submitted by the applicant,
34 the original submission date of the application shall be retained for
35 purposes of any applicable credentialing timeline. Submission of
36 the requested information shall not restart or otherwise extend the
37 applicable period for review of the application.

38 (cf: P.L.1997, c.192, s.7)

39
40 2. Section 1 of P.L.2001, c.88 (C.26:2S-7.1) is amended to read
41 as follows:

42 1. The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, in
43 consultation with the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, the
44 Health Insurance Association of America, the Medical Society of
45 New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association, and such other

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 representatives of managed care plans as the commissioner deems
2 appropriate, shall adopt by regulation, a universal **【physician】**
3 application for **【participation form】** initial credentialing for use by
4 carriers which offer managed care plans for the purpose of
5 credentialing **【physicians】** licensed health care professionals who
6 seek to participate in a carrier's provider network and for the
7 purpose of credentialing **【physicians】** licensed health care
8 professionals who are employed by hospitals or other health care
9 facilities which seek to participate in a carrier's provider network.

10 The commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey
11 Association of Health Plans, the Health Insurance Association of
12 America, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey
13 Hospital Association and such other representatives of managed
14 care plans as the commissioner deems appropriate, shall also adopt
15 by regulation **【a form】** an application for renewal of credentialing,
16 which shall be an abbreviated version of the universal application
17 **【form】**. The renewal **【form】** application shall be designed to enable
18 a **【physician】** licensed health care professional to indicate changes
19 in the information provided in the application **【form】**.

20 The commissioner shall revise the universal **【application】** and
21 renewal **【forms】** applications, as necessary, to conform with
22 industry-wide, national standards for credentialing.

23 In developing the forms, the commissioner shall consult with the
24 Commissioner of Human Services to ensure that the credentialing
25 requirements for **【participation】** initial credentialing and credential
26 renewal in the Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968,
27 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.), and the NJ FamilyCare Program
28 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et al.) are
29 adequately reflected on the **【application】** initial credentialing and
30 renewal **【forms】** applications.

31 (cf: P.L.2012, c.17, s.295)

32

33 3. Section 2 of P.L.2001, c.88 (C.26:2S-7.2) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 2. **【Within 180 days of the adoption of the forms by regulation**
36 **pursuant to this act, a】** A carrier which offers a managed care plan
37 shall accept the universal **【physician】** application for **【participation**
38 **form】** initial credentialing and credential renewal **【form】** adopted
39 pursuant to **【this act】** P.L.2001, c.88 (C.26:2S-7.1 et seq.) for the
40 purpose of credentialing **【physicians】** licensed health care
41 professionals who seek to participate in the carrier's provider
42 network and for the purpose of credentialing **【physicians】** licensed
43 health care professionals who are employed by hospitals or other
44 health care facilities which seek to participate in the carrier's
45 provider network.

1 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a carrier
2 from requesting additional information from an applicant that is not
3 provided for in the universal **【application】** or renewal **【form】**
4 applications, as applicable, if the requested information does not
5 duplicate any information included in the applicable **【form】**
6 application.

7 (cf: P.L.2001, c.88, s.2)

8
9 4. (New section) a. A carrier shall not require a licensed health
10 care professional, who is already credentialed with the carrier and
11 who changes employers or health care facilities within this State, to
12 submit a new initial credentialing or renewal application to
13 participate in the carrier's network solely on the basis that the
14 professional changed employers or health care facilities, unless the
15 change was the result of sanctions or other discipline imposed on
16 the professional, or the employment of the professional was
17 terminated for cause. This subsection shall apply only to licensed
18 health care professionals credentialed directly by the carrier.

19 b. A carrier may require a licensed health care professional
20 credentialed through a delegated credentialing entity, pursuant to
21 section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
22 as this bill), to undergo the carrier's credentialing process upon a
23 change in employer or health care facility.

24
25 5. (New section) a. A carrier which offers a managed care plan
26 shall make available for consideration, upon request, a credentialing
27 delegation agreement to a hospital licensed in this State that is
28 under contract with the carrier, provided that the hospital maintains
29 an accreditation and credentialing program that meets nationally
30 recognized standards, including, but not limited to, standards
31 promulgated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

32 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section shall be construed to
33 require a carrier to enter into a credentialing delegation agreement
34 with any hospital, to delegate credentialing authority where
35 applicable standards are not met, or to limit a carrier's ability to
36 conduct appropriate oversight of any delegated credentialing
37 arrangement in accordance with applicable accreditation,
38 regulatory, or contractual requirements.

39
40 6. This act shall take effect on the 180th day next following the
41 date of enactment, except that the Commissioner of Banking and
42 Insurance may take any anticipatory administrative action in
43 advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.