

## CHAPTER 97-45

### Senate Bill No. 358

An act relating to community health purchasing alliances; amending s. 408.702, F.S.; providing immunity from liability for members of the board of directors of a community health purchasing alliance, and its employees and agents, in the performance of the board's duties; correcting a cross-reference; amending s. 408.703, F.S.; providing that a small employer member of an alliance remains eligible for coverage for a specified period following an expansion of business; repealing s. 408.705, F.S., relating to the boards of directors of community health purchasing alliances; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (j) of subsection (6) of section 408.702, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

408.702 Community health purchasing alliance; establishment.—

(1) There is ~~hereby~~ created a community health purchasing alliance in each of the 11 health service planning districts established under s. 408.032(5). Each alliance must be operated as a state-chartered, nonprofit private organization organized pursuant to chapter 617. There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, any member of the board of directors of a community health purchasing alliance, or its employees or agents, for any action taken by the board in the performance of its powers and duties under ss. 408.70-408.706.

(6) Each community health purchasing alliance has the following powers, duties, and responsibilities:

(j) Ensuring that accountable health partnerships have grievance procedures to be used in resolving disputes between members and an accountable health partnership. A member may appeal to the alliance any grievance that is not resolved by the accountable health partnership. An accountable health partnership that is a health maintenance organization must follow the grievance procedures established in ss. 641.31(5) and ~~408.7056~~ 641.311.

Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 408.703, Florida Statutes, to read:

408.703 Small employer members of community health purchasing alliances; eligibility requirements.—

(6) Notwithstanding any other law, if a small employer member loses eligibility to purchase health care through a community health purchasing alliance solely because the business of the small employer member expands to more than 50 and less than 75 eligible employees, the small employer

member may, at its next renewal date, purchase coverage through the alliance for not more than one additional year.

Section 3. Section 408.705, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 7, 1997.