

2012 Kansas Statutes

40-3403. Health care stabilization fund, establishment and administration; board of governors, membership, organization, meetings, executive director and staff and general powers and duties; duties of commissioner of insurance; liability of fund; payments from fund; qualification of health care provider for coverage under fund, termination; liability of provider for acts of other providers; university of Kansas medical center private practice foundation reserve fund, establishment, transfers from; provider coverage options, election; eligibility of psychiatric hospitals and certain inactive providers for coverage; termination of fund liability for certain providers. (a) For the purpose of paying damages for personal injury or death arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render professional services by a health care provider, self-insurer or inactive health care provider subsequent to the time that such health care provider or self-insurer has qualified for coverage under the provisions of this act, there is hereby established the health care stabilization fund. The fund shall be held in trust in the state treasury and accounted for separately from other state funds. The board of governors shall administer the fund or contract for the administration of the fund with an insurance company authorized to do business in this state.

(b) (1) There is hereby created a board of governors which shall be composed of such members and shall have such powers, duties and functions as are prescribed by this act. The board of governors shall:

(A) Administer the fund and exercise and perform other powers, duties and functions required of the board under the health care provider insurance availability act;

(B) provide advice, information and testimony to the appropriate licensing or disciplinary authority regarding the qualifications of a health care provider;

(C) prepare and publish, on or before October 1 of each year, a summary of the fund's activity during the preceding fiscal year, including but not limited to the amount collected from surcharges, the highest and lowest surcharges assessed, the amount paid from the fund, the number of judgments paid from the fund, the number of settlements paid from the fund and the amount in the fund at the end of the fiscal year; and

(D) have the authority to grant exemptions from the provisions of subsection (m) of this section when a health care provider temporarily leaves the state for the purpose of obtaining additional education or training or to participate in religious, humanitarian or government service programs. Whenever a health care provider has previously left the state for one of the reasons specified in this paragraph and returns to the state and recommences practice, the board of governors may refund any amount paid by the health care provider pursuant to subsection (m) of this section if no claims have been filed against such health care provider during the provider's temporary absence from the state.

(2) The board shall consist of 10 persons appointed by the commissioner of insurance, as provided by this subsection (b) and as follows:

(A) Three members who are licensed to practice medicine and surgery in Kansas who are doctors of medicine and who are on a list of nominees submitted to the commissioner by the Kansas medical society;

(B) three members who are representatives of Kansas hospitals and who are on a list of nominees submitted to the commissioner by the Kansas hospital association;

(C) two members who are licensed to practice medicine and surgery in Kansas who are doctors of osteopathic medicine and who are on a list of nominees submitted to the commissioner by the Kansas association of osteopathic medicine;

(D) one member who is licensed to practice chiropractic in Kansas and who is on a list of nominees submitted to the commissioner by the Kansas chiropractic association;

(E) one member who is a licensed professional nurse authorized to practice as a registered nurse anesthetist who is on a list of nominees submitted to the commissioner by the Kansas association of nurse anesthetists.

(3) When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the board of governors created by this act, the commissioner shall appoint a successor of like qualifications from a list of three nominees submitted to the commissioner by the professional society or association prescribed by this section for the category of health care provider required for the vacant position on the board of governors. All appointments made shall be for a term of office of four years, but no member shall be appointed for more than two successive four-year terms. Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the membership of the board of governors created by this act for any reason other than the expiration of a member's term of office, the commissioner shall appoint a successor of like qualifications to fill the unexpired term. In each case of a vacancy occurring in the membership of the board of governors, the commissioner shall notify the professional society or association which represents the category of health care provider required for the vacant position and request a list of three nominations of health care providers from which to make the appointment.

(4) The board of governors shall organize on July 1 of each year and shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its membership. Meetings shall be called by the chairperson or by a written notice signed by three members of the board.

(5) The board of governors, in addition to other duties imposed by this act, shall study and evaluate the operation of the fund and make such recommendations to the legislature as may be appropriate to ensure the viability of the fund.

(6) (A) The board shall appoint an executive director who shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act and may appoint such attorneys, legal assistants, claims managers and compliance auditors who shall also be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act. Such executive director, attorneys, legal assistants, claims managers and compliance auditors shall receive compensation fixed by the board, in accordance with appropriation acts of the legislature, not subject to approval of the governor.

(B) The board may appoint such additional employees, and provide all office space, services, equipment, materials and supplies, and all budgeting, personnel, purchasing and related management functions required by the board in the exercise of the powers, duties and functions imposed or authorized by the health care provider insurance availability act or may enter into a contract with the commissioner of insurance for the provision, by the commissioner, of all or any part thereof.

(7) The commissioner shall:

(A) Provide technical and administrative assistance to the board of governors with respect to administration of the fund upon request of the board;

(B) provide such expertise as the board may reasonably request with respect to evaluation of claims or potential claims.

(c) Subject to subsections (d), (e), (f), (i), (k), (m), (n), (o), (p) and (q), the fund shall be liable to pay: (1) Any amount due from a judgment or settlement which is in excess of the basic coverage liability of all liable resident health care providers or resident self-insurers for any personal injury or death arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render professional services within or without this state;

(2) subject to the provisions of subsection (m), any amount due from a judgment or settlement which is in excess of the basic coverage liability of all liable nonresident health care providers or nonresident self-insurers for any such injury or death arising out of the rendering or the failure to render professional services within this state but in no event shall the fund be obligated for claims against nonresident health care providers or nonresident self-insurers who have not complied with this act or for claims against nonresident health care providers or nonresident self-insurers that arose outside of this state;

(3) subject to the provisions of subsection (m), any amount due from a judgment or settlement against a resident inactive health care provider, an optometrist or pharmacist who purchased coverage pursuant to subsection (n) or a physical therapist who purchased coverage pursuant to subsection (o), for any such injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services;

(4) subject to the provisions of subsection (m), any amount due from a judgment or settlement against a nonresident inactive health care provider, an optometrist or pharmacist who purchased coverage pursuant to subsection (n) or a physical therapist who purchased coverage pursuant to subsection (o), for any injury or death arising out of the rendering or failure to render professional services within this state, but in no event shall the fund be obligated for claims against: (A) Nonresident inactive health care providers who have not complied with this act; or (B) nonresident inactive health care providers for claims that arose outside of this state, unless such health care provider was a resident health care provider or resident self-insurer at the time such act occurred;

(5) subject to subsection (b) of K.S.A. 40-3411, and amendments thereto, reasonable and necessary expenses for attorney fees incurred in defending the fund against claims;

(6) any amounts expended for reinsurance obtained to protect the best interests of the fund purchased by the board of governors, which purchase shall be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3738 through 75-3744, and amendments thereto, but shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4101, and amendments thereto;

(7) reasonable and necessary actuarial expenses incurred in administering the act, including expenses for any actuarial studies contracted for by the legislative coordinating council, which expenditures shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3738 through 75-3744, and amendments thereto;

(8) periodically to the plan or plans, any amount due pursuant to subsection (a)(3) of K.S.A. 40-3413, and amendments thereto;

(9) reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the board of governors in the administration of the fund or in the performance of other powers, duties or functions of the board under the health care provider insurance availability act;

(10) return of any unearned surcharge;

(11) subject to subsection (b) of K.S.A. 40-3411, and amendments thereto, reasonable and necessary expenses for attorney fees and other costs incurred in defending a person engaged or who was engaged in residency training or the private practice corporations or foundations and their full-time physician faculty employed by the university of Kansas medical center or any nonprofit corporation organized to administer the graduate medical education programs of community hospitals or medical care facilities affiliated with the university of Kansas school of medicine from claims for personal injury or death arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render professional services by such health care provider;

(12) notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (m), any amount due from a judgment or settlement for an injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services by a person engaged or who was engaged in residency training or the private practice corporations or foundations and their full-time physician faculty employed by the university of Kansas medical center or any nonprofit corporation organized to administer the graduate medical education programs of community hospitals or medical care facilities affiliated with the university of Kansas school of medicine;

(13) subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 65-429, and amendments thereto, reasonable and necessary expenses for the development and promotion of risk management education programs and for the medical care facility licensure and risk management survey functions carried out under K.S.A. 65-429, and amendments thereto;

(14) notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (m), any amount, but not less than the required basic coverage limits, owed pursuant to a judgment or settlement for any injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services by a person, other than a person described in clause (12) of this subsection (c), who was engaged in a postgraduate program of residency training approved by the state board of healing arts but who, at the time the claim was made, was no longer engaged in such residency program;

(15) subject to subsection (b) of K.S.A. 40-3411, and amendments thereto, reasonable and necessary expenses for attorney fees and other costs incurred in defending a person described in clause (14) of this subsection (c);

(16) expenses incurred by the commissioner in the performance of duties and functions imposed upon the commissioner by the health care provider insurance availability act, and expenses incurred by the commissioner in the performance of duties and functions under contracts entered into between the board and the commissioner as authorized by this section; and

(17) periodically to the state general fund reimbursements of amounts paid to members of the health care stabilization fund oversight committee for compensation, travel expenses and subsistence expenses pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 40-3403b, and amendments thereto.

(d) All amounts for which the fund is liable pursuant to subsection (c) shall be paid promptly and in full except that, if the amount for which the fund is liable is \$300,000 or more, it shall be paid, by installment payments of \$300,000 or 10% of the amount of the judgment including interest thereon, whichever is greater, per fiscal year, the first installment to be paid within 60 days after the fund becomes liable and each subsequent installment to be paid annually on the same date of the year the first installment was paid, until the claim has been paid in full. Any attorney fees payable from such installment shall be similarly prorated.

(e) In no event shall the fund be liable to pay in excess of \$3,000,000 pursuant to any one judgment or settlement against any one health care provider relating to any injury or death arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render professional services on and after July 1, 1984, and before July 1, 1989, subject to an aggregate limitation for all judgments or settlements arising from all claims made in any one fiscal year in the amount of \$6,000,000 for each health care provider.

(f) The fund shall not be liable to pay in excess of the amounts specified in the option selected by the health care provider pursuant to subsection (l) for judgments or settlements relating to injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services by such health care provider on or after July 1, 1989.

(g) A health care provider shall be deemed to have qualified for coverage under the fund:

(1) On and after July 1, 1976, if basic coverage is then in effect;

(2) subsequent to July 1, 1976, at such time as basic coverage becomes effective; or

(3) upon qualifying as a self-insurer pursuant to K.S.A. 40-3414, and amendments thereto.

(h) A health care provider who is qualified for coverage under the fund shall have no vicarious liability or responsibility for any injury or death arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render professional services inside or outside this state by any other health care provider who is also qualified for coverage under the fund. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all claims filed on or after July 1, 1986.

(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 40-3402, and amendments thereto, if the board of governors determines due to the number of claims filed against a health care provider or the outcome of those claims that an individual health care provider presents a material risk of significant future liability to the fund, the board of governors is authorized by a vote of a majority of the members thereof, after notice and an opportunity for hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act, to terminate the liability of the fund for all claims against the health care provider for damages for death or personal injury arising out of the rendering of or the failure to render professional services after the date of termination. The date of termination shall be 30 days after the date of the determination by the board of governors. The board of governors, upon termination of the liability of the fund under this subsection, shall notify the licensing or other disciplinary board having jurisdiction over the health care provider involved of the name of the health care provider and the reasons for the termination.

(j) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (7) of this subsection (j), upon the payment of moneys from the health care stabilization fund pursuant to subsection (c)(11), the board of governors shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount of such payment, and the director of accounts and reports shall transfer an amount equal to the amount certified, reduced by any amount transferred pursuant to paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection (j), from the state general fund to the health care stabilization fund.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (7) of this subsection (j), upon the payment of moneys from the health care stabilization fund pursuant to subsection (c)(12), the board of governors shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount of such payment which is equal to the basic coverage liability of self-insurers, and the director of accounts and reports shall transfer an amount equal to the amount certified, reduced by any amount transferred pursuant to paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection (j), from the state general fund to the health care stabilization fund.

(3) The university of Kansas medical center private practice foundation reserve fund is hereby established in the state treasury. If the balance in such reserve fund is less than \$500,000 on July 1 of any year, the private practice corporations or foundations referred to in subsection (c) of K.S.A. 40-3402, and amendments thereto, shall remit the amount necessary to increase such balance to \$500,000 to the state treasurer for credit to such reserve fund as soon after such July 1 date as is practicable. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall credit the same to such reserve fund. When compliance with the foregoing provisions of this paragraph have been achieved on or after July 1 of any year in which the same are applicable, the state treasurer shall certify to the board of governors that such reserve fund has been funded for the year in the manner required by law. Moneys in such reserve fund may be invested or reinvested in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 40-3406, and amendments thereto, and any income or interest earned by such investments shall be credited to such reserve fund. Upon payment of moneys from the health care stabilization fund pursuant to subsection (c)(11) or (c)(12) with respect to any private practice corporation or foundation or any of its full-time physician faculty employed by the university of Kansas, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer an amount equal to the amount paid from the university of Kansas medical center private practice foundation reserve fund to the health care stabilization fund or, if the balance in such reserve fund is less than the amount so paid, an amount equal to the balance in such reserve fund.

(4) The graduate medical education administration reserve fund is hereby established in the state treasury. If the balance in such reserve fund is less than \$40,000 on July 1 of any year, the nonprofit corporations organized to administer the graduate medical education programs of community hospitals or medical care facilities affiliated with the university of Kansas school of medicine shall remit the amount necessary to increase such balance to \$40,000 to the state treasurer for credit to such reserve fund as soon after such July 1 date as is practicable. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall credit the same to such reserve fund. When compliance with the foregoing provisions of this paragraph have been achieved on or after July 1 of any year in which the same are applicable, the state treasurer shall certify to the board of governors that such reserve fund has been funded for the year in the manner required by law. Moneys in such reserve fund may be invested or reinvested in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 40-3406, and amendments thereto, and any income or interest earned by such investments shall be credited to such reserve fund. Upon payment of moneys from the health care stabilization fund pursuant to subsection (c)(11) or (c)(12) with respect to any nonprofit corporations organized to administer the graduate medical education programs of community hospitals or medical care facilities affiliated with the university of Kansas school of medicine the director of accounts and reports shall transfer an amount equal to the amount paid from the graduate medical education administration reserve fund to the health care stabilization fund or, if the balance in such reserve fund is less than the amount so paid, an amount equal to the balance in such reserve fund.

(5) Upon payment of moneys from the health care stabilization fund pursuant to subsection (c)(14) or (c)(15), the board of governors shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount of such payment, and the director of accounts and reports shall transfer an amount equal to the amount certified from the state general fund to the health care stabilization fund.

(6) Transfers from the state general fund to the health care stabilization fund pursuant to subsection (j) shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3722, and amendments thereto.

(7) The funds required to be transferred from the state general fund to the health care stabilization fund pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection (j) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2013, shall not be transferred prior to July 1, 2013. The director of accounts and reports shall maintain a record of the amounts certified by the board of governors pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection (j) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2013. Beginning July 1, 2013, in addition to any other transfers required pursuant to subsection (j), the state general fund transfers

which are deferred pursuant to this paragraph shall be transferred from the state general fund to the health care stabilization fund in the following manner: On July 1, 2013, and annually thereafter through July 1, 2017, an amount equal to 20% of the total amount of state general fund transfers deferred pursuant to this paragraph for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2013. The amounts deferred pursuant to this paragraph shall not accrue interest thereon.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of the health care provider insurance availability act, no psychiatric hospital licensed under K.S.A. 75-3307b, and amendments thereto, shall be assessed a premium surcharge or be entitled to coverage under the fund if such hospital has not paid any premium surcharge pursuant to K.S.A. 40-3404, and amendments thereto, prior to January 1, 1988.

(l) On or after July 1, 1989, every health care provider shall make an election to be covered by one of the following options provided in this subsection (l) which shall limit the liability of the fund with respect to judgments or settlements relating to injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services on or after July 1, 1989. Such election shall be made at the time the health care provider renews the basic coverage in effect on July 1, 1989, or, if basic coverage is not in effect, such election shall be made at the time such coverage is acquired pursuant to K.S.A. 40-3402, and amendments thereto. Notice of the election shall be provided by the insurer providing the basic coverage in the manner and form prescribed by the board of governors and shall continue to be effective from year to year unless modified by a subsequent election made prior to the anniversary date of the policy. The health care provider may at any subsequent election reduce the dollar amount of the coverage for the next and subsequent fiscal years, but may not increase the same, unless specifically authorized by the board of governors. Any election of fund coverage limits, whenever made, shall be with respect to judgments or settlements relating to injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services on or after the effective date of such election of fund coverage limits. Such election shall be made for persons engaged in residency training and persons engaged in other postgraduate training programs approved by the state board of healing arts at medical care facilities or mental health centers in this state by the agency or institution paying the surcharge levied under K.S.A. 40-3404, and amendments thereto, for such persons. The election of fund coverage limits for a nonprofit corporation organized to administer the graduate medical education programs of community hospitals or medical care facilities affiliated with the university of Kansas school of medicine shall be deemed to be effective at the highest option. Such options shall be as follows:

(1) *OPTION 1.* The fund shall not be liable to pay in excess of \$100,000 pursuant to any one judgment or settlement for any party against such health care provider, subject to an aggregate limitation for all judgments or settlements arising from all claims made in the fiscal year in an amount of \$300,000 for such provider.

(2) *OPTION 2.* The fund shall not be liable to pay in excess of \$300,000 pursuant to any one judgment or settlement for any party against such health care provider, subject to an aggregate limitation for all judgments or settlements arising from all claims made in the fiscal year in an amount of \$900,000 for such provider.

(3) *OPTION 3.* The fund shall not be liable to pay in excess of \$800,000 pursuant to any one judgment or settlement for any party against such health care provider, subject to an aggregate limitation for all judgments or settlements arising from all claims made in the fiscal year in an amount of \$2,400,000 for such health care provider.

(m) The fund shall not be liable for any amounts due from a judgment or settlement against resident or nonresident inactive health care providers who first qualify as an inactive health care provider on or after July 1, 1989, unless such health care provider has been in compliance with K.S.A. 40-3402, and amendments thereto, for a period of not less than five years. If a health care provider has not been in compliance for five years, such health care provider may make application and payment for the coverage for the period while they are nonresident health care providers, nonresident self-insurers or resident or nonresident inactive health care providers to the fund. Such payment shall be made within 30 days after the health care provider ceases being an active health care provider and shall be made in an amount determined by the board of governors to be sufficient to fund anticipated claims based upon reasonably prudent actuarial principles. The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to any health care provider which becomes inactive through death or retirement, or through disability or circumstances beyond such health care provider's control, if such health care provider notifies the board of governors and receives approval for an exemption from the provisions of this subsection. Any period spent in a postgraduate program of residency training approved by the state board of healing arts shall not be included in computation of time spent in compliance with the provisions of K.S.A. 40-3402, and amendments thereto.

(n) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (m) or any other provision in article 34 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated to the contrary, the fund shall not be liable for any claim made on or after July 1, 1991, against a licensed optometrist or pharmacist relating to any injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services by such optometrist or pharmacist prior to July 1, 1991, unless such optometrist or pharmacist qualified as an inactive health care provider prior to July 1, 1991.

(o) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (m) or any other provision in article 34 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated to the contrary, the fund shall not be liable for any claim made on or after July 1, 1995, against a physical therapist registered by the state board of healing arts relating to any injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services by such physical therapist prior to July 1, 1995, unless such physical therapist qualified as an inactive health care provider prior to July 1, 1995.

(p) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (m) or any other provision in article 34 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated to the contrary, the fund shall not be liable for any claim made on or after July 1, 1997, against a health maintenance organization relating to any injury or death arising out of the rendering of or failure to render professional services by such health maintenance organization prior to July 1, 1997, unless such health maintenance organization qualified as an inactive health care provider prior to July 1, 1997, and obtained coverage pursuant to subsection (m). Health maintenance organizations not qualified as inactive health care providers prior to July 1, 1997, may purchase coverage from the fund for periods of prior compliance by making application prior to August 1, 1997, and payment within 30 days from notice of the calculated amount as determined by the board of governors to be sufficient to fund anticipated claims based on reasonably prudent actuarial principles.

(q) Notwithstanding anything in article 34 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated to the contrary, the fund shall in no event be liable for any claims against any health care provider based upon or relating to the health care provider's sexual acts or activity, but in such cases the fund may pay reasonable and necessary expenses for attorney fees incurred in defending the fund against such claim. The fund may recover all or a portion of such expenses for attorney fees if an adverse judgment is returned against the health care provider for damages resulting from the health care provider's sexual acts or activity.

History: L. 1976, ch. 231, § 3; L. 1980, ch. 143, § 1; L. 1983, ch. 160, § 1; L. 1984, ch. 238, § 3; L. 1984, ch. 178, § 1; L. 1986, ch. 229, § 27; L. 1986, ch. 179, § 2; L. 1986, ch. 184, § 3; L. 1986, ch. 181, § 5; L. 1986, ch. 181, § 6; L. 1987, ch. 176, § 2; L. 1987, ch. 177, § 2; L. 1987, ch. 178, § 3; L. 1988, ch. 155, § 8; L. 1988, ch. 356, § 123; L. 1989, ch. 143, § 3; L. 1990, ch. 174, § 2; L. 1990, ch. 175, § 3; L. 1991, ch. 139, § 3; L. 1992, ch. 23, § 1; L. 1994, ch. 155, § 2; L. 1994, ch. 328, § 1; L. 1995, ch. 145, § 2; L. 1996, ch. 254, § 7; L. 1996, ch. 254, § 8; L. 1997, ch. 134, § 2; L. 1998, ch. 58, § 1; L. 2001, ch. 204, § 2; L. 2010, ch. 55, § 1; Apr. 8.