As Reported by the House General Government Committee

136th General Assembly

Regular Session 2025-2026

Sub. H. B. No. 229

Representative Deeter

Cosponsors: Representatives Bird, John, Russo

То	amend section 3959.01 and to enact sections	1
	3957.01, 3957.02, 3957.03, 3957.04, 3957.05,	2
	3957.06, 3957.07, 3957.08, 3957.09, 3957.10,	3
	3957.11, 3957.12, 3957.13, 3957.14, 3957.15,	4
	3957.16, 3957.17, and 3957.99 of the Revised	5
	Code to establish a stand-alone licensing	6
	process and new contractual requirements for	7
	pharmacy benefit managers.	8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3959.01 be amended and sections	9
3957.01, 3957.02, 3957.03, 3957.04, 3957.05, 3957.06, 3957.07,	10
3957.08, 3957.09, 3957.10, 3957.11, 3957.12, 3957.13, 3957.14,	11
3957.15, 3957.16, 3957.17, and 3957.99 of the Revised Code be	12
enacted to read as follows:	13
Sec. 3957.01. As used in this chapter:	14
(A) "Claims processing services" means administrative	15
services performed in connection with processing and	16
adjudicating claims relating to pharmacist services, including	17
both of the following:	18
(1) Receiving payments for pharmacist services;	19

(E) "Pharmacy benefit manager affiliate" means a pharmacy

Page 2

46

Sub. H. B. No. 229

As Reported by the House General Government Committee

Code, if the applicant requests such a hearing within thirty

104

days after the notice is sent.	105
Sec. 3957.07. Upon approving an application for a license	106
under this chapter and receiving payment of the associated	107
filing fee, the superintendent of insurance shall grant the	108
applicant a license and issue a certificate of authority to	109
operate as a pharmacy benefit manager in this state. The license	110
is effective on the date the application is approved by the	111
superintendent and expires annually on the thirtieth day of	112
June. If the application is approved in May or June, the license	113
expires on the thirtieth day of June the following year. All	114
licenses may be renewed, annually, in accordance with section	115
3957.08 of the Revised Code.	116
Sec. 3957.08. (A) The superintendent of insurance shall	117
provide a renewal notice to each person licensed under this	118
chapter not later than the first day of May each year.	119
(B) A person licensed under this chapter may renew the	120
license by applying to the superintendent, in the form and	121
manner prescribed by the superintendent, and paying a renewal	122
fee of three thousand dollars before the date the license	123
expires.	124
(C) In the event that a person licensed under this chapter	125
fails to apply for renewal and pay the renewal fee before the	126
date the license expires, the superintendent shall cancel the	127
person's certificate of authority to operate as a pharmacy	128
benefit manager in this state. A person whose license is expired	129
may apply to reinstate the license in the same manner as an	130
original application under section 3957.04 of the Revised Code,	131
except that the filing fee is the product of two hundred fifty	132
dollars times the number of months the reinstated license will	133
be in effect.	134

Sec. 3957.09. (A) Except as otherwise provided in division	135
(G) of this section, no person shall act as a pharmacy benefit	136
manager on or after July 1, 2027, without first entering into a	137
written agreement with a plan sponsor.	138
(D) The pharmacy benefit manager shall retain the written	139
(B) The pharmacy benefit manager shall retain the written	
agreement as part of the pharmacy benefit manager's official	140
records for the duration of the agreement and for five years	141
thereafter. Each agreement shall include, at a minimum, all of	142
the following:	143
(1) The term of the agreement;	144
(2) An explanation of the services to be performed by the	145
<pre>pharmacy benefit manager;</pre>	146
(3) The method and rate of compensation to be paid by the	147
plan sponsor to the pharmacy benefit manager for services	148
rendered;	149
(4) Provisions for the renewal and termination of the	150
agreement.	151
(C) A pharmagy hangist manager shall maintain for the	152
(C) A pharmacy benefit manager shall maintain, for the	
duration of the agreement with the plan sponsor, customary books	153
and records of all transactions and information relative to	154
covered persons or beneficiaries. The pharmacy benefit manager	155
shall maintain such books and records either electronically or	156
in physical form at the pharmacy benefit manager's principal	157
office or branch office.	158
(D) A pharmacy benefit manager shall account, annually or	159
more frequently, to the plan sponsor for any pricing discounts,	160
rebates of any kind, inflationary payments, credits, claw backs,	161
fees, grants, charge backs, drug product reimbursements, or	162
other benefits received by the pharmacy benefit manager. The	163

judgment of conviction. Within that thirty-day period, the	249
person shall also provide the superintendent with a copy of the	250
judgment, the commitment order or the order imposing a community	251
control sanction, as defined in section 2929.01 of the Revised	252
Code, and any other relevant documents.	253
Sec. 3957.12. (A) On and after July 1, 2027, no pharmacy	254
benefit manager shall do any of the following:	255
(1) Use plan sponsor funds for any purpose not	256
specifically set forth in writing by the pharmacy benefit	257
<pre>manager;</pre>	258
(2) Fail to disclose in written solicitation materials and	259
at least once annually to contracted plan sponsors any ownership	260
relationship of five per cent or more between the pharmacy	261
benefit manager and an insurance carrier;	262
(3) Fail to remit insurance company premiums within the	263
policy period or within the time agreed to in writing between	264
the insurance company and the pharmacy benefit manager;	265
(4) Fail to disclose in writing the method of collecting	266
and holding a plan sponsor's funds.	267
(B) This section does not apply to the extent that it	268
conflicts with an agreement that is not subject to this chapter.	269
Sec. 3957.13. (A) On and after July 1, 2027, a pharmacy	270
benefit manger shall do all of the following:	271
(1) Maintain detailed books and records that reflect all	272
transactions administered by the pharmacy benefit manager	273
pursuant to agreements that are subject to this chapter,	274
specifically in regard to premiums or contributions received and	275
deposited, and claims and authorized expenses paid.	276

(2) Prepare, journalize, and post the books and records	277
described in division (A)(1) of this section in accordance with	278
the terms and conditions of the service agreement between the	279
pharmacy benefit manager and the insurer or plan sponsor and in	280
accordance with the "Employee Retirement and Income Security Act	281
of 1974," 29 U.S.C. 1001.	282
(3) Maintain the books and records described in division	283
(A) (1) of this section for the period in which the pharmacy	284
benefit manager provides services for the applicable insurer or	285
plan sponsor and for ten years thereafter.	286
(4) Maintain a cash receipts register of all premiums or	287
contributions received, including, at minimum, the date such	288
contributions are received and deposited.	289
(B) For the purposes of the books and records required by	290
this section, a pharmacy benefit manager's description of a	291
disbursement shall be in sufficient detail to identify the	292
source document substantiating the purpose of the disbursement,	293
and shall include all of the following:	294
(1) The check number;	295
(2) The date of disbursement;	296
(3) The person to whom the disbursement was made;	297
(4) The amount disbursed and, if the amount disbursed does	298
not align with the amount billed or authorized, a written record	299
as to the application for the disbursement;	300
(5) If the disbursement is for the earned pharmacy benefit	301
manager fee or commission, a written record reflecting the	302
identifying deposit from which the fee is matched.	303
(C) A pharmacy benefit manager shall support all journal	304

entries for receipts and disbursements with evidence that is	305
referenced in the journal entry so that it may be traced for	306
verification.	307
(D) A pharmacy benefit manager shall prepare and maintain	308
monthly financial institution account reconciliations if	309
requested by an insurer or plan sponsor as provided in any	310
service agreement by and between the pharmacy benefit manager	310
and the insurer or plan sponsor that is subject to this chapter.	312
and the insurer of plan sponsor that is subject to this chapter.	512
(E) A pharmacy benefit manager shall prepare a report to	313
be filed with the insurer or plan sponsor with which the	314
pharmacy benefit manager has an agreement subject to this	315
chapter within ninety days after the end of the fiscal year of	316
the plan which, at minimum, discloses all of the following:	317
(1) The total premiums or contributions received from the	318
plan sponsor, covered persons, or beneficiaries;	319
(2) The total administration fees withdrawn by the	320
pharmacy benefit manager pursuant to the written service	321
agreement;	322
(3) The total claim payments made during the reporting	323
period.	324
	205
(F) A pharmacy benefit manager shall pay return premiums	325
or contributions to the insurer or plan sponsor with which the	326
pharmacy benefit manager has an agreement subject to this	327
chapter, or credit such return premiums or contributions to the	328
account of the insurer or plan sponsor, within thirty days after	329
receipt by the pharmacy benefit manager. If the pharmacy benefit	330
manager credits the return premium or contribution to the	331
insurer or plan sponsor, the pharmacy benefit manager shall show	332
and apply the credit to the next billing statement sent to the	333

insurer or plan sponsor.	334
(G) On and after July 1, 2027, the superintendent of	335
insurance may examine the books and records of a pharmacy_	336
benefit manager as necessary to determine the following related	337
to any contracts involving a pharmacy benefit manager and a	338
health benefit plan:	339
(1) The aggregate amount of rebates received by a pharmacy	340
benefit manager;	341
(2) The aggregate amount of rebates distributed by a	342
pharmacy benefit manager to an appropriate plan sponsor of a	343
health benefit plan or health plan issuer;	344
(3) The aggregate amount of rebates passed on to an	345
enrollee of each plan sponsor of a health benefit plan or health	346
plan issuer at the point of sale that reduced the enrollee's	347
applicable deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or other cost-	348
sharing amount;	349
(4) The individual and aggregate amount paid by a plan	350
sponsor of a health benefit plan or health plan issuer to the	351
pharmacy benefit manager for pharmacist services itemized by	352
pharmacy, product, and goods and services, including other	353
prescription drug or device services;	354
(5) The individual and aggregate amount a pharmacy benefit	355
manager paid for pharmacist services itemized by pharmacy,	356
product, and goods and services, including other prescription	357
drug or device services.	358
(H) A pharmacy benefit manager shall pay all expenses	359
associated with the examination functions authorized or required	360
by this section. The superintendent shall provide the pharmacy	361
benefit manager with an itemized statement of the expenses	362

incurred in the performance of those functions and, upon receipt	363
of that statement, the pharmacy benefit manager shall remit the	364
full amount of such expenses to the superintendent. The	365
superintendent shall remit amounts received under this division	366
to the treasurer of state pursuant to section 3901.021 of the	367
Revised Code for deposit in the department of insurance	368
operating fund.	369
(I) Upon written notification to a pharmacy benefit	370
manager by the superintendent of insurance that the pharmacy	371
benefit manager has violated any provision of this chapter, the	372
pharmacy benefit manager shall correct the violation specified	373
in the notice within sixty days.	374
Sec. 3957.14. (A) All information and data acquired by the	375
superintendent of insurance or the department of insurance under	376
this chapter is considered proprietary and confidential and is	377
not a public record under section 149.43 of the Revised Code.	378
(B) On and after July 1, 2027, no pharmacy benefit manager	379
or representative of a pharmacy benefit manager shall do either	380
of the following:	381
(1) Cause or knowingly permit the use of any	382
advertisement, promotion, solicitation, representation,	383
proposal, or offer that is untrue, deceptive, or misleading;	384
(2) Reimburse a pharmacy or pharmacist in this state an	385
amount less than the amount that the pharmacy benefit manager	386
reimburses a pharmacy benefit manager affiliate located in this	387
state for providing the same service.	388
Sec. 3957.15. This chapter does not apply to an employer's	389
self-insurance plan to the extent that federal law supersedes,	390
preempts, prohibits, or otherwise precludes its application to	391

whose activities are limited exclusively to the sale of

Page 15

420

insurance and who does not provide any administrative services;	421
(2) Any person who administers or operates the workers'	422
compensation program of a self-insuring employer under Chapter	423
4123. of the Revised Code;	424
(3) Any person who administers pension plans for the	425
benefit of the person's own members or employees or administers	426
pension plans for the benefit of the members or employees of any	427
other person;	428
(4) Any person that administers an insured plan or a self-	429
insured plan that provides life, dental, health, or disability	430
benefits exclusively for the person's own members or employees;	431
(5) Any health insuring corporation holding a certificate	432
of authority under Chapter 1751. of the Revised Code or an	433
insurance company that is authorized to write life or sickness	434
and accident insurance in this state;	435
(6) On and after July 1, 2027, a pharmacy benefit manager	436
licensed under Chapter 3957. of the Revised Code but only with	437
respect to agreements that are entered into, amended, or renewed	438
on or after that date.	439
(C) "Aggregate excess insurance" means that type of	440
coverage whereby the insurer agrees to reimburse the insured	441
employer or trust for all benefits or claims paid during an	442
agreement period on behalf of all covered persons under the plan	443
or trust which exceed a stated deductible amount and subject to	444
a stated maximum.	445
(D) "Contracted pharmacy" or "pharmacy" means a pharmacy	446
located in this state participating in either the network of a	447
pharmacy benefit manager or in a health care or pharmacy benefit	448
plan through a direct contract or through a contract with a	449

pharmacy services administration organization, group purchasing	450
organization, or another contracting agent.	451
(E) "Contributions" means any amount collected from a	452
covered person to fund the self-insured portion of any plan in	453
accordance with the plan's provisions, summary plan	454
descriptions, and contracts of insurance.	455
(F) "Drug product reimbursement" means the amount paid by	456
a pharmacy benefit manager to a contracted pharmacy for the cost	457
of the drug dispensed to a patient and does not include a	458
dispensing or professional fee.	459
(G) "Fiduciary" has the meaning set forth in section	460
1002(21)(A) of the "Employee Retirement Income Security Act of	461
1974," 88 Stat. 829, 29 U.S.C. 1001, as amended.	462
(H) "Fiscal year" means the twelve-month accounting period	463
commencing on the date the plan is established and ending twelve	464
months following that date, and each corresponding twelve-month	465
accounting period thereafter as provided for in the summary plan	466
description.	467
(I) "Insurer" means an entity authorized to do the	468
business of insurance in this state or, for the purposes of this	469
section, a health insuring corporation authorized to issue	470
health care plans in this state.	471
(J) "Managed care organization" means an entity that	472
provides medical management and cost containment services and	473
includes a medicaid managed care organization, as defined in	474
section 5167.01 of the Revised Code.	475
(K) "Maximum allowable cost" means a maximum drug product	476
reimbursement for an individual drug or for a group of	477
therapeutically and pharmaceutically equivalent multiple source	478

drugs that are listed in the United States food and drug	479
administration's approved drug products with therapeutic	480
equivalence evaluations, commonly referred to as the orange	481
book.	482
(L) "Maximum allowable cost list" means a list of the	483
drugs for which a pharmacy benefit manager imposes a maximum	484
allowable cost.	485
(M) "Multiple employer welfare arrangement" has the same	486
meaning as in section 1739.01 of the Revised Code.	487
(N) "Pharmacy benefit manager" means an entity that	488
contracts with pharmacies on behalf of an employer, a multiple	489
employer welfare arrangement, public employee benefit plan,	490
state agency, insurer, managed care organization, or other	491
third-party payer to provide pharmacy health benefit services or	492
administration. "Pharmacy benefit manager" includes the state	493
pharmacy benefit manager selected under section 5167.24 of the	494
Revised Code.	495
(O) "Plan" means any arrangement in written form for the	496
payment of life, dental, health, or disability benefits to	497
covered persons defined by the summary plan description and	498
includes a drug benefit plan administered by a pharmacy benefit	499
manager.	500
(P) "Plan sponsor" means the person who establishes the	501
plan.	502
	F.O.1
(Q) "Self-insurance program" means a program whereby an	503
employer provides a plan of benefits for its employees without	504
involving an intermediate insurance carrier to assume risk or	505
pay claims. "Self-insurance program" includes but is not limited	506
to employer programs that pay claims up to a prearranged limit	507

Sub. H. B. No. 229 As Reported by the House General Government Committee	Page 19
beyond which they purchase insurance coverage to protect against	508
unpredictable or catastrophic losses.	509
(R) "Specific excess insurance" means that type of	510
coverage whereby the insurer agrees to reimburse the insured	511
employer or trust for all benefits or claims paid during an	512
agreement period on behalf of a covered person in excess of a	513
stated deductible amount and subject to a stated maximum.	514
(S) "Summary plan description" means the written document	515
adopted by the plan sponsor which outlines the plan of benefits,	516
conditions, limitations, exclusions, and other pertinent details	517
relative to the benefits provided to covered persons thereunder.	518
(T) "Third-party payer" has the same meaning as in section	519
3901.38 of the Revised Code.	520
Section 2. That existing section 3959.01 of the Revised	521
Code is hereby repealed.	522