

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1653

To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to enhance access for independent agents and brokers to information regarding marketplace enrollment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2015

Mr. CASSIDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to enhance access for independent agents and brokers to information regarding marketplace enrollment.

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 “Equalizing the Playing
5 Field for Agents and Brokers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENHANCING ACCESS FOR INDEPENDENT AGENTS**
7 **AND BROKERS.**

8 (a) AGENT AND BROKER AND CONSUMER SUPPORT
9 LINE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enact-

1 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
 2 Services shall establish a dedicated toll-free customer serv-
 3 ice support help line to enable certified health insurance
 4 agents and brokers to seek assistance regarding qualified
 5 health plans offered in the Federal health insurance mar-
 6 ketplace.

7 (b) NATIONAL PRODUCER NUMBER.—Section
 8 1312(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
 9 (42 U.S.C. 18032(e)) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
 11 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively and redes-
 12 ignating the margins accordingly;

13 (2) by striking “The Secretary shall” and in-
 14 serting the following:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(2) LIST OF AGENTS AND BROKERS.—Not
 18 later than 14 days after the date of the enactment
 19 of this paragraph, the Secretary shall make available
 20 on the Internet website maintained by the Federal
 21 Government for health insurance coverage
 22 (healthcare.gov or any subsequent Internet site (or
 23 sites) that is established in whole or in part by the
 24 Federal Government to facilitate enrollment in quali-
 25 fied health plans, the receipt of tax credits or cost

1 sharing reduction assistance, or comparisons of
2 available qualified health plans) a list of all agents
3 and brokers who have been trained and are currently
4 certified by the Federal Exchange, including their
5 name and National Producer number and if avail-
6 able their business address, electronic mail address,
7 website, and phone number. The Secretary shall
8 enter into a contract with the National Insurance
9 Producers Registry to regularly verify, at least on a
10 monthly basis, the licensure status of all agents and
11 brokers who have been trained and are currently cer-
12 tified by the Federal Exchange and a mechanism
13 shall be developed and made accessible to all cer-
14 tified agents and brokers to enable such agents and
15 brokers to submit any changes to their contact and
16 licensure information to the Secretary so that such
17 website updates contain accurate agent and broker
18 contact information.

19 “(3) NEW INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.—Not
20 later than 5 business days after the promulgation of
21 any new regulation, or issuance of any guidance,
22 technical letter, or other official policy statement
23 that impacts the enrollment of individuals in quali-
24 fied health plans, the receipt of tax credits or cost
25 sharing reduction assistance, or comparisons of

1 available qualified health plans, the Secretary shall
2 provide all navigators (under section 1311(i)),
3 agents, and brokers who have been trained and are
4 currently certified by the Federal Exchange with a
5 clear description of such policy changes, including
6 specific practical guidance as to how certified navi-
7 gators, agents, and brokers can best assist their cli-
8 ents and help clients take advantage of any such pol-
9 icy changes.”.

○