

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1216
with Senate Amendments**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1216

Introduced by

Representatives Karls, Hagert, Kiefert, Wagner

Senators Boschee, Dever, Sorvaag

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 26.1-36 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs; to amend and reenact
3 section 26.1-36.6-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to self-insurance health care
4 plans; to provide for application; and to provide an effective date.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 26.1-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Out-of-pocket expenses - Prescription drugs.**

9 1. As used in this section:

10 a. "Cost-sharing" means any coinsurance, copayment, or deductible under a health
11 benefit plan.

12 b. "Enrollee" means an individual entitled to prescription drug coverage under a
13 health benefit plan.

14 c. "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided under section
15 26.1-36.3-01.

16 d. "Prescription drug" means a drug for which a prescription is required:

17 (1) Without a generic equivalent; or

18 (2) With a generic equivalent, if the enrollee has obtained access to the drug
19 through prior authorization, a step therapy protocol, or the health care
20 insurer's expectations and appeals process.

21 2. To the extent permitted by federal law and regulation, an insurer may not deliver,
22 issue, execute, or renew a health benefit plan providing prescription drug coverage

1 unless when calculating an enrollee's overall contribution to any out-of-pocket
2 maximum or any cost-sharing requirement for a prescription drug under the health
3 benefit plan, the health benefit plan provides for the inclusion of any amount paid by
4 the enrollee or paid on behalf of the enrollee by another person. The health benefit
5 plan may not vary the out-of-pocket maximum or cost-sharing requirement, or
6 otherwise design benefits accounting for the availability of a cost-sharing assistance
7 program for a prescription drug.

8 3. If application of this section would result in ineligibility of a health benefit plan that is a
9 qualified high-deductible health plan to qualify as a health savings account under
10 section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code [26 U.S.C. 223], the requirements of this
11 section do not apply with respect to the deductible of the health benefit plan until after
12 the enrollee has satisfied the minimum deductible under section 26 U.S.C. 223.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 26.1-36.6-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **26.1-36.6-03. Self-insurance health plans - Requirements. (Effective through July 31,**
16 **2025)**

- 17 1. The following policy provisions apply to a self-insurance health plan or to the
18 administrative services only or third-party administrator, and are subject to the
19 jurisdiction of the commissioner: sections 26.1-36-03, 26.1-36-03.1, 26.1-36-05,
20 26.1-36-10, 26.1-36-12, 26.1-36-12.4, 26.1-36-12.6, 26.1-36-13, 26.1-36-14,
21 26.1-36-17, 26.1-36-18, 26.1-36-19, 26.1-36-23, 26.1-36-29, 26.1-36-37.1, 26.1-36-38,
22 26.1-36-39, 26.1-36-41, 26.1-36-44, and 26.1-36-46.
- 23 2. The following health benefit provisions applicable to a group accident and health
24 insurance policy under chapter 26.1-36 apply to a self-insurance health plan and are
25 subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner: sections 26.1-36-06, 26.1-36-06.1,
26 26.1-36-07, 26.1-36-08, 26.1-36-08.1, 26.1-36-09, 26.1-36-09.1, 26.1-36-09.2,
27 26.1-36-09.3, 26.1-36-09.5, 26.1-36-09.6, 26.1-36-09.7, 26.1-36-09.8, 26.1-36-09.9,
28 26.1-36-09.10, 26.1-36-09.11, 26.1-36-09.12, 26.1-36-09.13, 26.1-36-09.14,
29 26.1-36-09.15, 26.1-36-11, 26.1-36-12.2, 26.1-36-20, 26.1-36-21, 26.1-36-22,
30 26.1-36-23.1, and 26.1-36-43. Section 54-52.1-04.18 applies to a self-insurance health
31 plan and is subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner.

1 **Self-insurance health plans - Requirements. (Effective after July 31, 2025)**

2 1. The following policy provisions apply to a self-insurance health plan or to the
3 administrative services only or third-party administrator, and are subject to the
4 jurisdiction of the commissioner: sections 26.1-36-03, 26.1-36-03.1, 26.1-36-05,
5 26.1-36-10, 26.1-36-12, 26.1-36-12.4, 26.1-36-12.6, 26.1-36-13, 26.1-36-14,
6 26.1-36-17, 26.1-36-18, 26.1-36-19, 26.1-36-23, 26.1-36-29, 26.1-36-37.1, 26.1-36-38,
7 26.1-36-39, 26.1-36-41, 26.1-36-44, and 26.1-36-46.

8 2. The following health benefit provisions applicable to a group accident and health
9 insurance policy under chapter 26.1-36 apply to a self-insurance health plan and are
10 subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner: sections 26.1-36-06, 26.1-36-06.1,
11 26.1-36-07, 26.1-36-08, 26.1-36-08.1, 26.1-36-09, 26.1-36-09.1, 26.1-36-09.2,
12 26.1-36-09.3, 26.1-36-09.5, 26.1-36-09.6, 26.1-36-09.7, 26.1-36-09.8, 26.1-36-09.9,
13 26.1-36-09.10, 26.1-36-09.11, 26.1-36-09.12, 26.1-36-09.13, 26.1-36-09.14,
14 26.1-36-09.15, 26.1-36-11, 26.1-36-12.2, 26.1-36-20, 26.1-36-21, 26.1-36-22,
15 26.1-36-23.1, and 26.1-36-43. Section 1 of this Act applies to a self-insurance health
16 plan and is subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner.

17 **SECTION 3. APPLICATION.** This Act applies effective January 1, 2026, to the public
18 employees retirement system uniform group insurance program health insurance benefits
19 coverage, regardless of the health insurance benefits coverage contract issuance or renewal
20 date. This Act applies effective January 1, 2026, or upon the next renewal after January 1,
21 2026, to health benefit plans.

22 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2026.