Article 93.
Prepaid Health Plan Licensing Act.

§ 58-93-1. Short title.
This Article may be cited as the Prepaid Health Plan Licensing Act. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

The following definitions apply in this Article:

1. Commercial Plan. – Any person, entity, or organization, profit or nonprofit, that (i) undertakes to provide or arrange for the delivery of health care services to enrollees on a prepaid basis except for enrollee responsibility for copayments and deductibles and (ii) is not a provider-led entity.


3. Enrollee. – A beneficiary enrolled to receive Medicaid or NC Health Choice services through a prepaid health plan.

4. Governing body. – The board of directors, trustees, partners, managers, or other individuals who are legally responsible for the governance of an entity.

5. Health care services. – Medicaid or NC Health Choice services provided by a prepaid health plan under a capitated contract with DHHS.

6. Insolvent or insolvency. – A circumstance that occurs when a prepaid health plan has been declared insolvent and is placed under an order of liquidation by a court of competent jurisdiction.

7. Licensed health organization. – A licensed health organization includes all of the following:
   a. A health maintenance organization licensed under Article 67 of this Chapter.
   b. A full service corporation licensed under Article 65 of this Chapter.
   c. An insurer under this Chapter that is required by the Commissioner to use the NAIC Health Annual Statement Blank when filing the annual statement in accordance with G.S. 58-2-165.

   The term "licensed health organization" does not include an insurer that (i) is licensed under this Chapter as either a life or health insurer or as a property or casualty insurer and (ii) is otherwise subject to either life or property and casualty risk-based capital requirements.

8. Prepaid health plan or PHP. – A commercial plan or provider-led entity holding a license under this Article for the purposes of operating a capitated contract for the delivery of services under the North Carolina Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs. For the purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 109(b)(2) and 11 U.S.C. § 109(d) only, a PHP is a domestic insurance company.

9. Provider-led entity. – An entity that meets all of the following criteria:
   a. A majority of the entity's ownership is held by (i) an individual or entity that has as its primary business purpose the ownership or operation of one or more capitated contracts under the North Carolina Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs or (ii) Medicaid and NC Health Choice providers.
b. A majority of the entity's governing body is composed of individuals who (i) are licensed in the State as physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or psychologists and (ii) have experience treating beneficiaries of the North Carolina Medicaid program.

(10) Working capital. – The excess of current assets over current liabilities. The only borrowed funds that may be included in working capital must be funds that are repayable only from net earned income and must be repayable only with the advance permission of the Commissioner. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

§ 58-93-10. Maximize federal reimbursement.
The Commissioner shall work with DHHS to maximize federal reimbursement of the Department's expenses in administering this Article to the extent that federal reimbursement is allowed under federal law. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

(a) The Commissioner may contract with consultants and other professionals to expedite and complete the application process, examinations, and other regulatory activities required under this Article. Costs of contracts entered into under this section shall be reimbursed by the applicant or licensee.

(b) Contracts under this section for financial, legal, examination, and other services shall not be subject to any of the following:

1. G.S. 114-2.3.
2. G.S. 147-17.
3. Articles 3, 3C, and 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and any rules and procedures adopted under those Articles concerning procurement, contracting, and contract review. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

(a) Any commercial plan or provider-led entity may apply to the Commissioner for a license to operate as a PHP in compliance with this Article.

(b) Each license application shall be verified by an officer or authorized representative of the applicant, shall be in a form prescribed by the Commissioner, and shall be set forth or be accompanied, at a minimum, by all of the following:

1. A copy of the organizational documents, if any, of the applicant, such as the articles of incorporation, articles of association, partnership agreement, trust agreement, or other applicable documents, and all amendments.
2. A copy of the bylaws, rules and regulations, or similar documents, if any, regulating the conduct of the internal affairs of the applicant.
3. A list of the names, addresses, official positions, and biographical affidavits of the persons who are to be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the applicant, including all members of the governing body, the principal officers in the case of a corporation, the partners or members in the case of a partnership or association, or the managers in the case of a limited liability company. This list shall be accompanied by a completed release of information for each of these individuals on forms acceptable to the Commissioner.
A disclosure identifying all affiliates, including a description of any management, service, or cost-sharing arrangement between an affiliate and the applicant.

The name and address of the registered agent of the applicant.

A detailed plan of operation.

The names and addresses of the applicant's qualified actuary and external auditors.

Financial statements showing the applicant's assets, liabilities, and sources of financial support. If the applicant's financial affairs are audited by independent certified public accountants, a copy of the applicant's most recent regular certified financial statement shall satisfy this requirement unless the Commissioner directs that additional or more recent financial information is required for the proper administration of this Article.

A financial feasibility study that includes (i) detailed enrollment projections, (ii) a projection of balance sheets, (iii) cash flow statements that show any capital expenditures, purchases and sales of investments, and deposits with the State, (iv) anticipated income and anticipated expense statements covering the start of operations through the period in which the applicant is anticipated to have had net income for at least one year, and (v) a statement as to the sources of working capital as well as any other sources of funding.

If not domiciled in this State, a power of attorney duly executed by the applicant appointing the Commissioner, the Commissioner's successors in office, and duly authorized deputies as the true and lawful attorney of the applicant in and for this State, upon whom all lawful process in any legal action or proceeding against the applicant on a cause of action arising in this State may be served.

A description of the procedures to be implemented to meet the protection against insolvency requirements of G.S. 58-93-70.

The plan for handling an insolvency as required by G.S. 58-93-75.

Other information as the Commissioner may require in order to make the determinations required in G.S. 58-93-25.

Any person that is already a licensed health organization in this State under this Chapter shall be recognized as a PHP under this Article and shall be issued a PHP license upon the licensed health organization's demonstration to the Commissioner of its compliance with this Article. A licensed health organization shall not be required to file a PHP application, pay a PHP application fee, or provide the notice required by subsection (d) of this section as a condition of receipt of a PHP license. Unless otherwise exempted, a licensed health organization shall be subject to the remaining requirements of this Article, including deposit, minimum capital and surplus, and working capital requirements.

A PHP shall file a notice describing any significant modification of the operation set out in the information required by subsection (b) of this section for approval by the Commissioner prior to the modification. If the Commissioner does not disapprove within 90 days after the filing, the modification shall be deemed to be approved. Every PHP shall file with the Commissioner all subsequent changes in the information or forms that are required by this Article to be filed with the Commissioner.
(e) The Commissioner shall regularly provide DHHS with information and documentation related to its licensing and regulation of PHPs, including licenses, examination results, penalties imposed, or other actions taken in regards to PHPs. (2018-49, s. 1(a); 2019-179, s. 9(a).)

§ 58-93-25. Issuance and continuation of license.
(a) Before issuing or continuing any PHP license, the Commissioner of Insurance may make any examination as the Commissioner deems expedient. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of G.S. 58-93-20, the Commissioner shall issue a license upon the payment of the application fee prescribed in G.S. 58-93-30 and upon being satisfied on all of the following points:
   (1) The applicant has complied with the application requirements of G.S. 58-93-20.
   (2) The applicant has a minimum capital and surplus equal to or greater than that required by G.S. 58-93-70(b).
   (3) The amounts provided as working capital are repayable only out of earned income in excess of amounts paid and payable for operating expenses and expenses of providing services and such reserve as the Department deems adequate.
   (4) The amount of money actually available for working capital is sufficient to carry all acquisition costs and operating expenses for a reasonable period of time from the date of the issuance of the license and that the applicant is financially responsible and may reasonably be expected to meet its obligations to enrollees and prospective enrollees. Such working capital shall initially be a minimum of one million five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000) or a higher amount as the Commissioner shall determine to be adequate.
   (5) The person or persons who will manage the PHP have adequate expertise, experience, and character.

(b) A license shall be denied only after compliance with the requirements of G.S. 58-93-95. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

§ 58-93-30. Fees.
The Commissioner shall charge an application fee of two thousand dollars ($2,000) for entities filing an application to be licensed as a PHP under this Article. The Commissioner shall charge an annual PHP license continuation fee of five thousand dollars ($5,000). The PHP license shall continue in full force and effect subject to timely payment of the annual PHP license continuation fee in accordance with G.S. 58-6-7(c) and subject to any other provisions of this Chapter applicable to PHPs. (2018-49, s. 1(a); 2019-179, s. 9(b).)

§ 58-93-35. Deposits.
(a) All deposits required by this section shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of this Chapter.
(b) The Commissioner shall require a minimum deposit of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) or such higher amount as the Commissioner determines to be necessary for the protection of enrollees.
(c) For licensed health organizations, the deposit required by this section is in addition to any other deposit required by the Commissioner.
(d) All deposits made pursuant to this section shall not be subject to G.S. 58-62-95. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

(a) No PHP shall enter into an exclusive management or custodial agreement unless the agreement is first filed with the Commissioner and approved under this section within (i) 45 days after filing or (ii) a reasonable extended period as specified by notice from the Commissioner given within a 45-day period after filing.
(b) The Commissioner shall disapprove an agreement submitted under subsection (a) of this section if the Commissioner determines that the agreement does any of the following:
   (1) Subjects the PHP to excessive charges.
   (2) Extends for an unreasonable period of time.
   (3) Does not contain fair and adequate standards of performance.
   (4) Enables persons under the contract to manage the PHP who are not sufficiently trustworthy, competent, experienced, and free from conflict of interest to manage the PHP with due regard for the interests of its enrollees, creditors, or the public.
   (5) Contains provisions that impair the interests of the PHP’s enrollees, creditors, or the public. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

§ 58-93-45. Fiduciary responsibilities.
Any director, officer, trustee, manager, or partner of a PHP who receives, collects, disburses, or invests funds in connection with the activities of the PHP shall be responsible for those funds in a fiduciary relationship to the enrollees and to the State. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

§ 58-93-50. Statements filed with Commissioner.
Every PHP subject to this Article is subject to G.S. 58-2-165. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

§ 58-93-55. Investments.
(a) With the exception of investments made in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the funds of a PHP shall be invested or maintained only in securities, other investments, or other assets permitted by the laws of this State for the investment of assets constituting the legal reserves of life insurance companies or such other securities or investments as the Commissioner may permit.
(b) A PHP may, with the Commissioner's prior approval, do any of the following:
   (1) Invest its funds to purchase, lease, construct, renovate, operate, or maintain (i) a hospital, (ii) a medical facility, (iii) ancillary equipment of a hospital or medical facility, or (iv) any property as may reasonably be required for its principal office or for other purposes as may be necessary in the transaction of the business of the PHP.
   (2) Make loans to a medical group under contract with the PHP in furtherance of the PHP's program or the making of loans to a corporation or corporations under the PHP's control for the purpose of acquiring or constructing medical facilities
and hospitals or in furtherance of a program providing health care services to enrollees.

(c) The Commissioner shall not allow any investment if the Commissioner determines the investment would substantially and adversely affect the financial soundness of the PHP and endanger its ability to meet its obligations. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

§ 58-93-60. Examinations.

The Commissioner may make an examination of the affairs of any PHP as often as the Commissioner determines it to be necessary for the protection of the interests of the enrollees or the State but not less frequently than once every five years. The Commissioner shall notify DHHS prior to any examination of a PHP and shall provide DHHS with the results of an examination in accordance with G.S. 58-93-5(e). Examinations shall otherwise be conducted under G.S. 58-2-131 through G.S. 58-2-134. (2018-49, s. 1(a); 2019-179, s. 9(c).)


(a) Whenever the financial condition of any PHP indicates a condition such that the continued operation of the PHP might be hazardous to its enrollees, creditors, the general public, or the State, the Commissioner may order the PHP to take action as may be reasonably necessary to rectify the existing condition, including one or more of the following steps:

1. Reduce the total amount of present and potential liability for health care services by reinsurance.
2. Reduce the volume of new business being accepted.
3. Reduce the expenses by specified methods.
4. Suspend or limit the writing of new business for a specified period of time.
5. Require an increase to the PHP's capital and surplus by contribution.

(b) The Commissioner may consider any or all of the standards in G.S. 58-30-60(b) when determining whether the continued operation of a PHP is hazardous to its enrollees, creditors, the general public, or the State.

(c) The remedies under subsection (a) of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, the remedies and measures available to the Commissioner under the provisions of Article 30 of this Chapter.

(d) The Commissioner shall notify the Secretary of DHHS prior to taking any action against a PHP under this section. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

§ 58-93-70. Protection against insolvency.

(a) The Commissioner shall require deposits in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 58-93-35.

(b) Each PHP shall maintain a minimum capital and surplus equal to the greater of one million dollars ($1,000,000) or the amount required under the risk-based capital provisions of Article 12 of this Chapter.

(c) Every PHP shall have and maintain at all times an adequate plan for protection against insolvency acceptable to the Commissioner. In determining the adequacy of such a plan, the Commissioner may consider all of the following:

1. A reinsurance agreement preapproved by the Commissioner covering excess loss, stop loss, or catastrophes. The agreement must provide that the
Commissioner will be notified no less than 60 days prior to cancellation or reduction of coverage.

(2) Any other arrangements offering protection against insolvency that the Commissioner may require. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

§ 58-93-75. Continuation of health care services.

The Commissioner shall require that each PHP have a plan for handling insolvency. The plan must allow for health care services to be provided to enrollees until the PHP's enrollees whose enrollment in a PHP is not voluntary are enrolled in another PHP. In considering the plan, the Commissioner may require any of the following:

(1) Insurance to cover the expenses to be paid for enrollee health care services after an insolvency.
(2) Provisions in provider contracts that obligate the provider to provide services for the duration of the period after the PHP's insolvency until the PHP's enrollees whose enrollment in a PHP is not voluntary are enrolled in another PHP.
(3) Insolvency reserves.
(4) Letters of credit acceptable to the Commissioner.
(5) Any other arrangements to assure that health care services are provided to enrollees as specified in this section. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

§ 58-93-80. Incurred but not reported claims.

(a) Every PHP shall, when determining liability, include an amount estimated in the aggregate to provide for (i) any unearned capitation payment, (ii) the payment of all claims for health care expenditures that have been incurred, whether reported or unreported, that are unpaid and for which the PHP is or may be liable, and (iii) the expense of adjustment or settlement of these claims.

(b) Liabilities shall be computed in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner based upon rules applicable to health maintenance organizations adjusted for reasonable consideration of the ascertained experience and character of the PHP. (2018-49, s. 1(a.).)

§ 58-93-85. Suspension or revocation of license.

(a) The Commissioner may suspend or revoke a PHP license if the Commissioner finds that a PHP meets any of the following:

(1) Is operating significantly in contravention of its organizational document, or in a manner contrary to that described in and reasonably inferred from any other information submitted under G.S. 58-93-20, unless amendments to such submissions have been filed with and approved by the Commissioner.
(2) Is no longer financially responsible and may reasonably be expected to be unable to meet its obligations to enrollees or prospective enrollees.
(3) Is operating in a manner that would be hazardous to its enrollees or to the State.
(4) Knowingly or repeatedly fails or refuses to comply with any law or rule applicable to the PHP or with any order issued by the Commissioner after notice and opportunity for a hearing.
§ 58-93-90. Rehabilitation or liquidation of PHP.
(a) Any rehabilitation or liquidation of a PHP shall be deemed to be the rehabilitation or liquidation of an insurance company and shall be conducted under the supervision of the Commissioner pursuant to Article 30 of this Chapter. The Commissioner may apply for an order directing the rehabilitation or liquidation of a PHP upon one or more grounds set out in Article 30 of this Chapter or when it is the opinion of the Commissioner that the continued operation of the PHP would be hazardous either to the enrollees or to the State. Priority shall be given to DHHS's claims over all other claims in G.S. 58-30-220, except for claims in G.S. 58-30-220(1).
(b) To the greatest extent possible, the Commissioner shall provide notice to DHHS prior to seeking an application for an order to rehabilitate or liquidate a PHP under this section. If prior notice is not possible, the Commissioner shall provide the notice to DHHS as soon as possible after seeking the order. (2018-49, s. 1(a); 2019-179, s. 9(d).)

§ 58-93-95. Administrative procedures.
(a) When the Commissioner has cause to believe that grounds for the denial of an application for a license exist, or that grounds for the suspension or revocation of a license exist, notification shall be given to the PHP in writing and a copy of the notice shall be provided to DHHS. This notice shall specifically state the grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation and shall set a date for a hearing on the matter at least 30 days after notice is given.
(b) After such hearing, or upon the failure of the PHP to appear at such hearing, the Commissioner shall take action as is deemed advisable and issue written findings that shall be mailed to the PHP. The Commissioner shall provide DHHS with an explanation of the action taken and a copy of the written findings.
(c) The action of the Commissioner taken under subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to review by the Superior Court of Wake County. The court may, in disposing of the issue before it, modify, affirm, or reverse the order of the Commissioner in whole or in part.
(d) The provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes of this State shall apply to proceedings under this section to the extent that they are not in conflict with this section. (2018-49, s. 1(a); 2019-179, s. 9(e).)
§ 58-93-100. Penalties and enforcement.
   (a) The Commissioner may, in addition to or in lieu of suspending or revoking a license under G.S. 58-93-85, proceed under G.S. 58-2-70, provided that the PHP has reasonable time to remedy the defect in its operations that gave rise to the procedure under G.S. 58-2-70.
   (b) Violation of this Article or any other provision of this Chapter that expressly applies to PHPs is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
   (c) If the Commissioner shall for any reason have cause to believe that any violation of this Article or any other provision of this Chapter that expressly applies to PHPs has occurred or is threatened, the Commissioner may give notice to the PHP and to the representatives or other persons who appear to be involved in such suspected violation to arrange a conference with the alleged violators or their authorized representatives for the purpose of attempting to ascertain the facts relating to the suspected violation and, in the event it appears that any violation has occurred or is threatened, to arrive at an adequate and effective means of correcting or preventing the violation. If notice is given under this subsection, a copy of the notice shall be provided to the Secretary of DHHS. The Secretary of DHHS or the Secretary's designee may be present at any proceedings under this subsection.
   Proceedings under this subsection shall not be governed by any formal procedural requirements and may be conducted in such manner as the Commissioner may deem appropriate under the circumstances.
   (d) The Commissioner may issue an order directing a PHP or a representative of a PHP to cease and desist from engaging in any act or practice in violation of the provisions of this Article or any other provision of this Chapter that expressly applies to PHPs. Within 30 days after service of the cease and desist order, the respondent may request a hearing on the question of whether acts or practices have occurred that are in violation of this Article or any other provision of this Chapter that expressly applies to PHPs. The hearing shall be conducted under Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, and judicial review shall be available as provided by Article 4 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.
   (e) In the case of any violation of the provisions of this Article or any other provision of this Chapter that expressly applies to PHPs, if the Commissioner elects not to issue a cease and desist order, or in the event of noncompliance with a cease and desist order issued under subsection (d) of this section, the Commissioner may institute a proceeding to obtain injunctive relief, or seek other appropriate relief, in the Superior Court of Wake County.
   (f) The Commissioner shall consult with the Secretary of DHHS prior to taking any action against a PHP under this section. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

   (a) All applications, filings, and reports required under this Article shall be treated as public documents unless otherwise determined by the Commissioner to be proprietary information.
   (b) Information shared between the Department and DHHS under this Article is confidential and not open to public inspection under G.S. 132-6, unless the information is considered a public record under G.S. 132-1 or is otherwise subject to disclosure under the provisions of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
   (c) Information shared between the Department and DHHS under this Article that is not open to public inspection shall not be disclosed to any person unless otherwise agreed to by both the Commissioner and the Secretary of DHHS. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)
§ 58-93-110. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.
   (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, provisions of this Chapter do not apply to either of the following:
      (1) A PHP that is not a licensed health organization.
      (2) A PHP that is a licensed health organization in regards to activities that relate solely to the PHP's Medicaid or NC Health Choice operations.
   (b) Nothing in this section shall limit the Commissioner's authority over a PHP that is a licensed health organization in relation to any activities that do not relate solely to the PHP's Medicaid or NC Health Choice operations. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

   The Commissioner may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this Article. (2018-49, s. 1(a).)

§ 58-93-120. Other laws applicable to PHPs.
   The following provisions of this Chapter are applicable to PHPs in the manner in which they are applicable to insurers:
   (1) G.S. 58-2-131, Examinations to be made; authority, scope, scheduling, and conduct of examinations.
   (2) G.S. 58-2-132, Examination reports.
   (3) G.S. 58-2-133, Conflict of interest; cost of examinations; immunity from liability.
   (4) G.S. 58-2-134, Cost of certain examinations.
   (5) G.S. 58-2-150, Oath required for compliance with law.
   (7) G.S. 58-2-160, Reporting and investigation of insurance and reinsurance fraud and the financial condition of licensees; immunity from liability.
   (8) G.S. 58-2-162, Embezzlement by insurance agents, brokers, or administrators.
   (9) G.S. 58-2-165, Annual, semiannual, monthly, or quarterly statements to be filed with Commissioner.
   (10) G.S. 58-2-185, Record of business kept by companies and agents; Commissioner may inspect.
   (11) G.S. 58-2-190, Commissioner may require special reports.
   (12) G.S. 58-2-195, Commissioner may require records, reports, etc., for agencies, agents, and others.
   (13) G.S. 58-2-200, Books and papers required to be exhibited.
   (14) G.S. 58-2-205, CPA audits of financial statements.
   (15) G.S. 58-7-21, Credit allowed a domestic ceding insurer.
   (16) G.S. 58-7-26, Asset or reduction from liability for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of G.S. 58-7-21.
   (17) G.S. 58-7-30, Insolvent ceding insurer.
   (18) G.S. 58-7-31, Life and health reinsurance agreements.
   (19) G.S. 58-7-46, Notification to Commissioner for president or chief executive officer changes.
(20) G.S. 58-7-73, Dissolution of insurers.
(21) G.S. 58-7-160, Investments unlawfully acquired.
(22) G.S. 58-7-162, Allowed or admitted assets.
(23) G.S. 58-7-163, Assets not allowed.
(24) G.S. 58-7-165, Eligible investments.
(25) G.S. 58-7-167, General qualifications.
(27) G.S. 58-7-170, Diversification.
(28) G.S. 58-7-172, Cash and deposits.
(29) G.S. 58-7-173, Permitted insurer investments.
(30) G.S. 58-7-179, Mortgage loans.
(31) G.S. 58-7-180, Chattel mortgages.
(32) G.S. 58-7-183, Special consent investments.
(33) G.S. 58-7-185, Prohibited investments and investment underwriting.
(34) G.S. 58-7-188, Time limit for disposal of ineligible property and securities; effect of failure to dispose.
(35) G.S. 58-7-192, Valuation of securities and investments.
(36) G.S. 58-7-193, Valuation of property.
(37) G.S. 58-7-197, Replacing certain assets; reporting certain liabilities.
(38) G.S. 58-7-200, Investment transactions.
(39) G.S. 58-7-205, Derivative transactions.
(40) Article 5, Deposits and Bonds by Insurance Companies.
(41) Part 7 of Article 10, Annual Financial Reporting.
(42) Article 12, Risk-Based Capital Requirements.
(43) Article 13, Asset Protection Act.
(44) Article 19, Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act. (2018-49, s. 1(a); 2019-179, s. 9(f).)