

**POSTING FOR INDEPENDENT HEARING OFFICERS FOR BCBSM RATE HEARINGS PURSUANT TO THE
NONPROFIT HEALTH CARE CORPORATION REFORM ACT 1980 PA 350, MCL 550.1101 et. seq.**

From time to time, the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation receives hearing requests to challenge proposed rate increases filed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) for three categories of subscribers: nongroup individuals, former members of groups - known as "group conversion," and senior citizens on Medicare with Medicare supplemental coverage.

If such a hearing is requested, the Commissioner is required to appoint an independent hearing officer. In order to support the expeditious handling of such hearing requests, the Commissioner is forming a pool of qualified applicants for the hearing officer position. Pursuant to MCL 550.1613, an applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- a. Is qualified to hold hearings;
- b. Has experience or education in the area of health care corporation or insurance rate determination and finance;
- c. Is not otherwise associated financially with a health care corporation or health care provider;
- d. Is not currently or actively employed by the State of Michigan (for purposes of this determination, an employee of an educational institution is not considered an employee of the State of Michigan).

In order to find persons who are "qualified to hold hearings" as required by statute, in addition to the criteria outlined above, the Commissioner will give preference to candidates with the following credentials and/or experience:

1. Substantial litigation, arbitration and/or administrative hearings experience;
2. Service as an administrative law judge, magistrate, arbitrator or circuit court judge;
3. Is not involved, either directly or indirectly, in the provision of health care services, health insurance or health care benefits;
4. Is committed to the expeditious and fair hearing of complex matters, including limiting time periods for discovery and the extent of discovery as warranted.

Such hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act and other guidance established by the Commissioner. An Independent Hearing Officer under this provision will operate as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the State of Michigan. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. NOTE: During the period of a contract, a retirant receiving a pension under the State Employees' Retirement Act forfeits his or her right to receive the pension.

Interested parties should send a cover letter, recent resume, three professional references and a sample of written work involving statutory interpretation or application and which includes substantial original analysis. Send to:

Randall S. Gregg, General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation
P.O. Box 30220
Lansing, MI 48909-7720

An interested party who wishes to be considered for a hearing that will commence shortly should immediately contact the General Counsel at greggr2@michigan.gov or 517-373-0435.