 Comments Regarding Section 2794 of the Public Health Service Act (the PHS Act). Section 2794 of the PHS Act requires the Secretary to work with States to establish an annual review of unreasonable rate increases, to monitor premium increases and to award grants to States to carry out their rate review process. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invites public comments in advance of future rulemaking.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments by May 14, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, identified by DHHS–2010–PRR, may be submitted to the Department of HHS by one of the following methods:

- Mail: Written comments (one original and two copies) may be mailed to: Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: DHHS–2010–PRR, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445–G, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.
- Hand or courier delivery: Comments may be delivered to Room 445–G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201. Because access to the interior of the HHH Building is not readily available to persons without Federal Government identification, commenters are encouraged to leave their comments in the DHHS–2010–PRR drop box located in the main lobby of the building. A stamp-in clock is available for persons wishing to retain proof of filing by stamping in and retaining an extra copy of the comments being filed.

Inspection of Public Comments. All comments received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. We post all electronic comments received before the close of the comment period on the following public Web site as soon as possible after they have been received: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the search instructions on that Web site to view public comments.
Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201, Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment to view public comments, call 202–690–5480.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1003 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), Public Law 111–148, enacted on March 23, 2010, added Section 2794 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act). In 1996, Congress enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which added title XXVII to the PHS Act, and parallel provisions to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. These amendments provided for, among other things, improved portability and continuity of coverage with respect to health insurance coverage in the group and individual insurance markets, and group health plan coverage provided in connection with employment. Title XXVII of the PHS Act is codified at 42 U.S.C. 300gg, et seq. PPACA expanded Title XXVII of the PHS Act, redesignated several sections, and created new requirements affecting the individual and group markets. In particular, among other provisions, Section 2794 provides health insurance issuers offering individual or group coverage to submit to the Secretary and the relevant State a justification for an unreasonable premium increase.

A. Initial Premium Review Process, Public Reporting, and Justification of Unreasonable Premium Increases for Individual and Group Coverage

Section 2794(a)(1) requires the Secretary, in conjunction with States, to establish a process for the annual review, beginning with the 2010 plan year, of all increases in premiums for health insurance coverage. Additionally, Section 2794(a)(2) provides that this process shall require health insurance issuers to submit to the Secretary and the relevant State a justification for an unreasonable premium increase prior to the implementation of the increase, and prominently post this information on their Internet Web sites. Section 2794(a)(2) also requires the Secretary to ensure the public disclosure of information relating to these increases and justifications for all health insurance issuers.

B. Continuing Premium Review Process

For plan years beginning in 2014, Section 2794(b)(2)(A) requires the Secretary, in conjunction with States to monitor premium increases of health insurance coverage offered through an Exchange and outside of an Exchange, consistent with the provisions of Section 2794(a)(2). In this context, the terms “State Exchange” and “Exchange” refer to the State health insurance exchanges established under PPACA). Section 2794(b)(1) also requires that, as a condition of receiving a grant from the Secretary to assist in carrying out the premium review process, States shall provide the Secretary with information about trends in premium increases in health insurance coverage in premium rating areas in the State; and make recommendations about whether particular health insurance issuers should be excluded from participation in the Exchange based on a pattern or practice of excessive or unjustified premium increases.

Additionally, Section 2794(b)(2)(B) requires States to take into account any excess of premium growth outside of the Exchange, as compared to the rate of premium growth inside the Exchange, in determining whether to offer qualified health plans in the large group market through an Exchange.

C. Availability of Grants to States in Support of the Premium Review Process

Section 2794(c)(1) directs the Secretary to carry out a program to award grants to States during the five-year period beginning with fiscal year 2010 to assist in carrying out the requirements of Section 2794(a). For example, these grants can be used to assist States in reviewing and, if appropriate under State law, approving premium increases for health insurance coverage; and providing information and recommendations to the Secretary under Section 2794(b)(1).

Section 2794(c)(2)(A) provides for an appropriation to the Secretary of $250,000,000 to be used to establish a formula for determining the amount of any grant to a State under this subsection that considers the number of plans of health insurance coverage offered in each State and the population of the State (with the requirement that no State qualifying for a grant shall receive less than $1,000,000 or more than $5,000,000 for a grant year).

Additionally, Section 2794(c)(2)(B) provides that if these appropriated amounts are not fully obligated under the above mentioned State grants by the end of fiscal year 2014, any remaining funds are to remain available to the Secretary for grants to States for planning and implementing the insurance reforms and consumer protections under Part A of the PPACA.

D. Effective Dates

Section 1004(a) of the PPACA provides that the provisions of Section 2794 of the PHS Act shall become effective for fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2010.

II. Solicitation of Comments

A. Information Regarding Regulatory Guidance

The Department is inviting public comment to aid in the development of regulations regarding Section 2794 of the PHS Act, and is especially interested in the perspectives of researchers, policy analysts, health insurance issuers, and States. To assist interested parties in responding, this request for comments describes specific areas in which the Department is particularly interested.

This request for comments identifies a wide range of issues that are of interest to the Department. Commenters should use the questions below to assist in providing the Department with useful information relating to the development of regulations regarding Section 2794 of the PHS Act. However, it is not necessary for commenters to address every question. Individuals, groups, and organizations interested in providing information relating to one or more of the topics discussed herein may do so at their discretion by following the above mentioned instructions.

Specific Areas in which the Department is interested include the following:

1. Rate Filings and Review of Rate Increases

The Act requires the Secretary, in conjunction with States, to establish a process for the annual review of unreasonable increases in health

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Additionally, Section 2794(c)(2)(B) provides that if these appropriated amounts are not fully obligated under the above mentioned State grants by the end of fiscal year 2014, any remaining funds are to remain available to the Secretary for grants to States for planning and implementing the insurance reforms and consumer protections under Part A of the PPACA.
insurance premiums. A justification for an unreasonable premium increase is also required.

a. To what extent do States currently have processes in place to review premium rates and rate increases?

1. What kinds of methodologies are used by States to determine whether or not to approve or modify a rate or a rate increase? What are the pros and cons of these differing methodologies?

2. Are special considerations needed for certain kinds of plans (for example, HMOs, high deductible health plans, new policies, and closed blocks of business)? If so, what special considerations are typically employed and under what circumstances?

b. Where applicable, do health insurance issuers currently provide actuarial memorandums and supporting documentation relating to premium rate calculations, such as trend assumptions, for all premium rates and rate increases that are submitted, and/or for all premium rates and rate increases that are reviewed?

1. How is medical trend typically calculated?

2. Are specific exhibits, worksheets or other documents typically required? If so, are these documents generally submitted to the State Insurance Department directly, and if so, in what format?

3. To what extent do issuers use the following categories to develop justifications for rate increases: cost-sharing, enrollment population including health risk status, utilization increases, provider prices, administrative costs, medical loss ratios, reserves, and surplus levels? Are there other factors that are considered?

c. What level(s) of aggregation (for example, by policy form level, by plan type, by line of business, or by company) are generally used for rate filings, rate approvals, and any corrective actions? What are the pros and cons associated with each level of aggregation in these various contexts?

d. What requirements do States currently have relating to medical trend and rating calculations? What are the pros and cons of these different requirements, and what additional requirements could potentially be set?

1. Do States generally allow enrollees under the same policy form to be further subdivided for purposes of calculating medical trends and rates?

2. Do States generally allow enrollees under different policy forms to be grouped together for these calculations, and if so, how?

2. Defining Unreasonable Premium Rate Increases

The Act provides that the initial and continuing rate review process under Section 2794 is only to be undertaken for unreasonable premium rate increases.

a. In States that currently have rate review processes, are all rates or rate increases generally reviewed? If so, for what markets and/or products? If not, what criteria do these States typically use when determining which rates or rate increases will be reviewed? To what extent do States require that these reviews take place before the proposed rate increases can be implemented?

b. To what extent have States developed definitions of what constitutes a premium rate increase warranting review?

3. Public Disclosure

The Act requires that health insurance issuers prominently post the justification for an unreasonable premium increase on their Internet Web sites prior to implementation of the increase.

a. To what extent is information on premium rates and premium rate increases, and related justifications, currently made available to the public?

1. To what extent are annual summaries of premium rate increases currently made available to the public on State or consumer Web sites, and/or made available by request? Where available, to what extent is this information generally provided by policy form, type of product, line of business, or some other grouping?

2. To what extent are rate filings with actuarial justification and supporting documentation generally made available to the public? In what format(s) are rate filings currently made available to the public? What format(s) would be most useful to the public?

3. What kinds of supporting documentation are necessary for consumers to interpret these kinds of information?

b. What kinds of information relating to justification for an unreasonable premium increase could potentially be made available?

4. Exclusion From Exchange

For plan years beginning in 2014, States receiving grants in support of the rate review process must make recommendations, as appropriate, to the State Exchange about whether particular insurance issuers should be excluded from participation in the Exchange based on a pattern or practice of excessive or unjustified premium increases.

a. To what extent have States developed definitions of what constitutes an excessive or unjustified premium rate increase and/or a pattern or practice of such increases? How could a pattern or practice of excessive unjustified premium increases be defined in this context, and what are some of the pros and cons of the various approaches that are available?

b. What criteria could be established to determine whether insurers have engaged in a pattern or practice of excessive or unjustified premium increases?

5. Grant Allocation

The Act directs the Secretary to allocate $250 million in grant money to States to carry out the rate review process.

a. What factors could be considered in grant allocation?

b. What weighting could be given to different factors and why?

B. Information Regarding Economic Analysis, Paperwork Reduction Act, and Regulatory Flexibility Act

Executive Order 12866 requires an assessment of the anticipated costs and benefits of a significant rulemaking action and the alternatives considered, using the guidance provided by the Office of Management and Budget. These costs and benefits are not limited to the Federal government, but pertain to the affected public as a whole. Under Executive Order 12866, a determination must be made whether implementation of Section 2794 of the PHS Act will be economically significant. A rule that has an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more is considered economically significant.

In addition, the Regulatory Flexibility Act may require the preparation of an analysis of the economic impact on small entities of proposed rules and regulatory alternatives. An analysis under the Regulatory Flexibility Act must generally include, among other things, an estimate of the number of small entities subject to the regulations (for this purpose, plans, employers, and issuers and, in some contexts small governmental entities), the expense of the reporting, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements (including the expense of using professional expertise), and a description of any significant regulatory alternatives considered that would accomplish the stated objectives of the statute and minimize the impact on small entities.

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires an estimate of how many “respondents” will be required to comply with any “collection of
information” requirements contained in regulations and how much time and cost will be incurred as a result. A collection of information includes recordkeeping, reporting to governmental agencies, and third-party disclosures.

Furthermore, Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) requires that agencies assess anticipated costs and benefits and take certain other actions before issuing a final rule that includes any Federal mandate that may result in expenditure in any one year by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $135 million.

The Department is requesting comments that may contribute to the analyses that will be performed under these requirements, both generally and with respect to the following specific areas:

1. What policies, procedures, or practices of health insurance issuers and States may be affected by Section 2794 of the PHS Act?
   a. What direct or indirect costs and benefits would result?
   b. Which stakeholders will be impacted by such benefits and costs?
   c. Are these impacts likely to vary by insurance market, plan type, or geographic area?

2. Are there unique costs and benefits for small entities subject to Section 2794 of the PHS Act?
   a. What special consideration, if any, is needed for these health insurance issuers or plans that they sell?
   b. What costs and benefits have issuers experienced in implementing requirements relating to rate review under State insurance laws or otherwise?

3. Are there additional paperwork burdens related to Section 2794 of the PHS Act, and, if so, what estimated hours and costs are associated with those additional burdens?

Signed at Washington, DC this 8th day of April, 2010.
Donald B. Moulds,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.
[FR Doc. 2010–8600 Filed 4–12–10; 10:15 am]
BILLING CODE 4150–03–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73
[DA 10–487; MB Docket No. 10–64; RM–11598]

FM TABLE OF ALLOTMENTS, Milford, Utah

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Audio Division seeks comments on a petition filed by Canyon Media Group, LLC, authorized assignee of Station KCLS(FM), Channel 260C2, Pioche, Nevada, requesting the substitution of Channel 288C for vacant Channel 285C at Milford, Utah. The reference coordinates for Channel 288C at Milford are 38–31–11NL and 113–17–07WL, at a site 27.6 kilometers (17.2 miles) northwest of Milford.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before May 17, 2010, and reply comments on or before June 1, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC interested parties may file comments on or before May 17, 2010, and reply comments on or before June 1, 2010.

ADDRESS: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC interested parties should serve the petitioner, as follows: Brendan Holland, Esq., Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah A. Dupont, Media Bureau, (202) 418–7072.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission’s notice of Proposed Rule Making. MB Docket No. 10–64, adopted March 24, 2010, and released March 26, 2010. The full text of this Commission document is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC: Reference Information Center (Room CY—A257), 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission’s copy contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554, 800–378–3160 or via the company’s website, http://www.bcpiweb.com.

This document does not contain proposed information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any proposed information collection burden “for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees,” pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4).

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply to this proceeding.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comment may be filed using: (1) the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), (2) the Federal Government’s eRulemaking Portal, or (3) by filing paper copies. See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/ or the Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. For submitting comments, filers should follow the instructions provided on the website.

For ECFS filer, if multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, filer must transmit one electronic copy of the comments for each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions, filers should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and include the following words in the body of the message, “get form.” A sample form and directions will be sent in response.

For Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rule making number.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first–class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

• The Commission’s contractor will receive hand–delivered or messenger–delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretariat at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours