REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: All Submission for Permanent Rule Forms

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In Box 6, under “Link to Agency notice” you’ve put the date of notice of text, rather than a link to where the notice was published. Please correct.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22Q .0101

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In general, “Scope” rules are considered unnecessary. Do you need it here? If you feel that you do, that’s fine, but I wanted to ask.

Please center the chapter title, rather than just indenting it.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22Q .0101 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1496 as follows:

CHAPTER 22 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY

SUBCHAPTER 22Q DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE ADJUSTMENT RECEIPTS ARISING FROM CERTIFIED PUBLIC EXPENDITURES

10A NCAC 22Q .0101 SCOPE

This Subchapter establishes the requirements for the distribution of federal disproportionate share adjustment receipts as established by 42 CFR 447.298 arising from certified public expenditures.

History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22Q .0102

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In (a), line 4, please consider making “Certifying Hospitals” singular, as there is a number disagreement with the rest of the sentence.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22Q .0102 DEFINITIONS

(a) “Certifying Hospitals” means an institution that meets all of the following criteria:

(1) meets the definition in G.S. 131E-176(13);

(2) is licensed by the State of North Carolina; and

(3) certifies as a public agency that its expenditures are eligible for Federal Financial Participation in accordance with 42 CFR 433.51(b), which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document may be accessed at https://www.ecfr.gov at no charge.

(b) “Department” means the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) “Outpatient services” means those services as defined by 42 CFR 440.20(a), which is hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document can be accessed at https://www.ecfr.gov at no charge.

(d) “Uninsured patient” means medical care recipients who do not have health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, or other third-party coverage. State or local government payments made to a hospital for services provided to indigent patients shall not be considered a source of third-party coverage.

(e) “Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund” means the fund established by G.S. 143C-9-9 and governed by 10A NCAC 22R.

(f) “Payment period” means the 12-month term ending September 30th of each year.

History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22Q .0103

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

   On line 4, to whom are these distributions made?

   In (2), line 10, to be clear, you're making distributions from a fund to another fund?

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22Q .0103 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1496 as follows:::

10A NCAC 22Q .0103  DISTRIBUTIONS

After distributions are made pursuant to an act appropriating funds for the operation of the North Carolina Medicaid Program and the "Basic Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payment" section of the North Carolina Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.19-A, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, and may be accessed free of charge at https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/media/973/download?attachment, the Department shall make distributions of the remaining DSH funds in the following order to:

(1) Certifying hospitals; and
(2) The Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund.

History Note:  Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9:
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY:  DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION:  10A NCAC 22Q .0104

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT:  Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

On line 4, “available funds” refer to funds in the Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund, correct? If so, please consider clarifying.

In (2), line 8, to what does “available funds” refer? Is this the total amount before any distribution is made, or is this the amount left over after the distribution described in (1) is made?

In (2), what is the “date of payment”?

In (2), lines 10-11, it appears like the 90 day period is tied to the date of the payment, which is determined by the Department. How does the hospital know when that will be?

In (2), line 11, are the contents of the form completely described in sub items (a)-(c)? Where is this form available?

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22Q .0104 CERTIFYING HOSPITAL DISTRIBUTION

The Department shall distribute available funds to certifying hospitals in two parts:

(1) An amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures certified by the hospital pursuant to 42 CFR 433.51; and

(2) An amount equal to the hospital’s proportionate share, calculated pursuant to Rule .0106 of this Section, of the available funds based on the hospital’s share of outpatient costs for uninsured patients as a percentage of the Statewide aggregate of outpatient costs for uninsured patients. To be eligible for a proportionate share, a hospital shall file with the Department 90 days prior to the date of payment as determined by the Department, a form prescribed by the Department attesting to the hospital’s:

(a) Qualification for disproportionate share status under the "Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payment" section of the North Carolina Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.19-A;

(b) Unreimbursed charges and payments for outpatient services provided to uninsured patients; and

(c) Aggregate Medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio.

History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22Q .0105

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In (c), is the title “Prospective Payment System Hospital Input Price Indices” correct? There is nothing with that precise name in the link supplied.

Further, it appears these indices are regularly updated. Please incorporate by reference and state whether the incorporation includes subsequent amendments or editions, as required by 150B-21.6.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22Q .0105 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1496 as follows:

**10A NCAC 22Q .0105 CERTIFYING HOSPITALS’ OUTPATIENT COSTS**

(a) A certifying hospital’s outpatient costs for uninsured patients will be determined by multiplying the hospital’s outpatient cost-to-charge ratio in Rule .0104(2)(c) of this Section by the hospital's outpatient charges for uninsured patients from Rule .0104(2)(b) of this Section.

(b) From the product calculated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the Department will then subtract payments that the hospital received from uninsured patients for outpatient services in Rule .0104(2)(b) of this Section.

(c) The Department will bring the uncompensated care cost data forward to the end of the payment period by applying the applicable Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Prospective Payment System Hospital Input Price Indices, which are available at https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MedicareProgramRatesStats/MarketBasketData.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9:*

*Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021:*

*Eff. August 1, 2022:*
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22Q .0106

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In (1), line 5, the amount of certifying hospitals’ outpatient costs is calculated as in 22Q .0105, correct?

In (1), lines 5-6, please delete the parentheses and incorporate the parenthetical material into the body of the Rule.

In (1), you’re adding the costs of all certifying hospitals and all eligible hospitals statewide, correct?

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22Q .0106 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1497 as follows::

10A NCAC 22Q .0106  CERTIFYING HOSPITAL’S PROPORTIONATE SHARE

The Department shall calculate the certifying hospital’s proportionate share of outpatient costs as follows:

(1) Adding the certifying hospitals' outpatient costs and each of the eligible hospitals’ (as defined in 10A NCAC 22R .0103) eligible outpatient costs under 10A NCAC 22R .0104. The sum represents the total of the outpatient costs.

(2) The sum of all certifying hospitals’ outpatient costs under Rule .0105 of this Section shall be divided by the total outpatient costs in Item (1) of this Rule. The quotient represents the certifying hospitals’ proportionate share, expressed as a decimal.

(3) The amount of available funds shall be multiplied by the certifying hospitals’ proportionate share in Item (2) of this Rule. The product represents the funds available for distribution to individual certifying hospitals.

(4) A certifying hospital shall be eligible for a payment from funds available for distribution in Item (3) of this Rule. In each payment period, a certifying hospital shall receive a proportional payment of the available funds based on the certifying hospital’s share of outpatient costs for uninsured patients as a percentage of the aggregate of outpatient costs for uninsured patients for certifying hospitals.

(5) Hospitals receiving payments pursuant to this Subchapter shall be subject to the audit and reporting requirements of the North Carolina Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.19-A.

History Note:  Authority G.S. 108A-54; 108A-55(c); 143C-9-9:
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22R .0101

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

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The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In general, “Scope” rules are considered unnecessary. Do you need it here? If you feel that you do, that’s fine, but I wanted to ask.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22R .0101 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1497 as follows:

CHAPTER 22 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY

SUBCHAPTER 22R DISTRIBUTION OF HOSPITAL UNCOMPENSATED CARE FUND

10A NCAC 22R .0101 SCOPE

This Subchapter establishes the requirements for the distribution of funds allocated to the Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund pursuant to G.S. 143C-9-9 after distributions of available funds have been made pursuant to 10A NCAC 22Q.

History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22R .0102

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

Is there a reason the Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund is defined in 22Q .0102, but not here?

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22R .0102 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1497 as follows:

**10A NCAC 22R .0102 DEFINITIONS**

(a) “Department” means the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) “Eligible hospital” means an institution that meets the requirements of Rule .0103 of this Section.

(c) “Eligible hospital cost” means the values calculated pursuant to Rule .0104 of this Section.

(d) “Outpatient services” means the medical care and items as defined by 42 CFR 440.20(a), which is incorporated by reference in 10A NCAC 22Q .0102.

(e) “Uninsured patient” means a recipient of medical care who has no health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, or other third-party coverage. State and local government payments made to a hospital for services provided to indigent patients shall not be considered third-party coverage.

(f) “Payment period” means the 12-month term ending September 30th of each year.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;*

Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;

*Eff. August 1, 2022.*
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22R .0103

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In (3), line 11, it appears like the 90 day period for filing forms is tied to the date of the payment. Yet the date of payment is a future event. How does the hospital know when that will be?

In (3), line 11, are the contents of the forms completely described in sub items (a)-(c)? Where are these forms available?

Where are (3)(b) and (3)(c) calculated?

Are the unreimbursed charges and payments for outpatient services referenced in (3)(b) the same as the eligible outpatient costs calculated in 22R .0104?

Is the cost-to-charge ratio referenced in (3)(c) the same as what is calculated in 22Q .0104(2)(c)?

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22R .0103 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1497 as follows:

**10A NCAC 22R .0103  ELIGIBLE HOSPITAL**

An institution licensed by the State of North Carolina that meets the definition in G.S. 131E-176 (13) is eligible for reimbursement from the Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund if it:

1. is not a public agency qualified to certify expenditures in accordance 42 CFR 433.51(b), which is incorporated by reference in 10A NCAC 22Q .0102;

2. received payment for more than 50 percent of their Medicaid inpatient discharges under the North Carolina Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.19-A discharge Diagnosis Related Groups methodology for the most recent payment period;

3. files with the Department 90-days prior to the date of payment under this Subchapter forms prescribed by the Department attesting to the hospital’s:
   a. qualification for disproportionate share status of the "Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payment" section of the North Carolina Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.19-A;
   b. unreimbursed charges and payments for outpatient services provided to uninsured patients;
   and
   c. aggregate Medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge.

*History Note:*  Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
*Eff. August 1, 2022.*
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION: 10A NCAC 22R .0104

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

In (c), is the title “Prospective Payment System Hospital Input Price Indices” correct? There is nothing with that precise name in the link supplied.

Further, it appears these indices are regularly updated. Please incorporate by reference and state whether the incorporation includes subsequent amendments or editions, as required by 150B-21.6.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22R .0104 is adopted as published in 36:18 NCR 1497 as follows:

**10A NCAC 22R .0104 ELIGIBLE OUTPATIENT COSTS**

(a) An eligible hospital’s eligible outpatient costs for uninsured patients will be determined by multiplying the hospital’s outpatient cost-to-charge ratio in Rule .0103(3)(c) of this Section by the hospital’s outpatient charges for uninsured patients from Rule .0103(3)(b) of this Section.

(b) From the product calculated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the Department will then subtract payments that the hospital received from uninsured patients for outpatient services from Rule .0103(3)(b) of this Section.

(c) The Department will bring the uncompensated care cost data forward to the end of the payment period by applying the applicable Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Prospective Payment System Hospital Input Price Indices, which are available at https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MedicareProgramRatesStats/MarketBasketData.

History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9;
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021;
Eff. August 1, 2022.
REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY:  DHHS – Division of Health Benefits

RULE CITATION:  10A NCAC 22R .0105

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT:  Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following changes be made:

- In (a), line 5, what does “funds available under this Subchapter” mean? Is this only the Hospital Uncompensated Care Fund? Or are there other sources of funding?

- In (b), line 8, what does “at least annually” mean? Is the “at least” necessary? Rules already set minimum requirements.

- In (c), line 13, what does “compliance with the requirements of this Subchapter” mean?

- In (c)(1), what happens if the audit reveals a hospital received an underpayment?

- In (c)(2), line 17, refunded amounts are to be distributed to eligible hospitals pursuant to the method described in (a). If a hospital is audited and must refund excess payments, which are then distributed, is the audited hospital then entitled to a percentage of the excess? The Rule doesn’t appear to exempt the audited hospital from receiving a payment under these circumstances, and under 22R .0103, I don’t see anything that would change the eligibility status of an audited hospital.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.
10A NCAC 22R .0105 DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

(a) An eligible hospital satisfying the requirements of Rule .0103 of this Section shall be eligible for a payment from funds available under this Subchapter. In a payment period, an eligible hospital shall receive a proportional payment of the available funds based on the eligible hospital’s share of outpatient costs for uninsured patients as a percentage of the aggregate of outpatient costs for uninsured patients for all eligible hospitals.

(b) Based on the availability of funds, payments authorized by this Rule shall be made at least annually on a frequency determined by the Department in consultation with certifying hospitals.

(c) To confirm the hospital’s eligibility to receive payments pursuant to this Subchapter and the accuracy of the hospital’s attestation to unreimbursed charges for outpatient services provided to uninsured patients and the hospital’s Medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratios, the Department may audit a hospital receiving more than two million dollars ($2,000,000) for compliance with the requirements of this Subchapter. Upon completion of the audit, the following shall occur when applicable:

1. If a hospital received payments pursuant to Paragraph (a) of this Rule in excess of the percentage determined by the audit, the excess payments shall be refunded to the Department.

2. The Department shall distribute any refunded amounts to eligible hospitals within 12 months of receipt using the distribution method set forth Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

3. No additional payment shall be made to eligible hospitals in connection with the audit except for the redistribution of amounts refunded after an audit conducted by the Division of Health Benefits.

History Note: Authority G.S. 108A-54; 143C-9-9; Temporary Adoption Eff. December 29, 2021; Eff. August 1, 2022.