By Senator Hays

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An act relating to health benefit plans; creating s. 627.66991, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring certain health benefit plans to authorize licensed pharmacists and permitted pharmacies to serve as participating pharmacy services providers for any of the plan's participants under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

- Section 1. Section 627.66991, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 627.66991 Health benefit plans; authorization of participating pharmacy services providers.—
 - (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in s. 627.6699.
- (b) "Pharmacy services" means services provided by a pharmacist as defined in s. 465.003 licensed to practice the profession of pharmacy as defined in s. 465.003.
- (2) A health benefit plan that provides pharmacy services as a benefit must authorize a pharmacist licensed under chapter 465 or a pharmacy issued a permit under chapter 465, if the pharmacist or pharmacy agrees to the plan's terms, conditions, reimbursement rates, and standards of quality, to serve as a participating pharmacy services provider for any of the plan's participants.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.