

CHAPTER 46

**INSURANCE**

**HOUSE BILL 97-1144**

BY REPRESENTATIVES G. Berry, Dyer, Hagedorn, McPherson, Schauer, K. Alexander, George, Lawrence, Schwarz, and Smith;  
also SENATORS B. Alexander, Bishop, and Schroeder.

**AN ACT**

CONCERNING ALLOWABLE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION CASE CHARACTERISTIC CATEGORIES FOR SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN PREMIUM DETERMINATIONS FOR COUNTIES THAT ARE NOT PART OF A PRIMARY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA OR A METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** 10-16-102 (10) (b) (II), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1994 Repl. Vol., is amended to read:

**10-16-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(10) (b) Effective January 1, 1995, "case characteristics" are limited to the following demographic characteristics:

(II) Geographic location of the policyholder, including the following location categories only, UNLESS THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT, BASED ON DIFFERENCES IN MEDICAL COSTS FOR CERTAIN COUNTIES DESCRIBED IN SUB-SUBPARAGRAPHS (B) OR (C), OR BOTH, OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II), CERTAIN COUNTIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ONE OR MORE SEPARATE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION CATEGORIES THAT THE COMMISSIONER MAY ESTABLISH:

(A) Counties in Colorado that are part of a primary metropolitan statistical area or a metropolitan statistical area; except that different primary metropolitan statistical areas and metropolitan statistical areas may have different rates;

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

(B) Counties in Colorado with a population of twenty thousand or fewer residents;  
and

(C) All other counties in Colorado;

**SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: March 24, 1997