

2.1 on a uniform basis for all small employers purchasing that product other than through a
2.2 qualified association in compliance with section 62L.045, subdivision 2.

2.3 Paragraph (a) does not apply to a health benefit plan designed for a small employer
2.4 to comply with a collective bargaining agreement, provided that the health benefit plan
2.5 otherwise complies with this chapter and is not offered to other small employers, except
2.6 for other small employers that need it for the same reason. This paragraph applies only
2.7 with respect to collective bargaining agreements entered into prior to August 21, 1996,
2.8 and only with respect to plan years beginning before the later of July 1, 1997, or the date
2.9 upon which the last of the collective bargaining agreements relating to the plan terminates
2.10 determined without regard to any extension agreed to after August 21, 1996.

2.11 (d) Every health carrier participating in the small employer market shall make
2.12 available both of the plans described in section 62L.05 to small employers and shall fully
2.13 comply with the underwriting and the rate restrictions specified in this chapter for all
2.14 health benefit plans issued to small employers.

2.15 (e) A health carrier may cease to transact business in the small employer market as
2.16 provided under section 62L.09.

2.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.