
SENATE BILL 5597

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Benton, Zarelli, Kauffman, Kline, Carrell, Poulsen, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Delvin and Roach

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to contracts with chiropractors; adding a new
2 section to chapter 48.43 RCW; creating a new section; providing an
3 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) For purposes of this section, "contractor" means third-party
8 payor as defined in RCW 70.02.010 and any organization engaged in the
9 business of creating health care provider networks for use by a third-
10 party payor.

11 (2) Contractors may not directly or indirectly through contract or
12 otherwise refuse to reimburse for the health care services legally
13 provided by employees of a contracted chiropractor if the service would
14 be a reimbursable benefit but for the contractor's refusal to recognize
15 or reimburse the services performed by employees of the contracted
16 chiropractor.

17 (3) Contractors may not refuse to contract with licensed health
18 care providers employed by a contracted chiropractor if such licensed

1 health care provider otherwise meets the fair credentialing standards
2 of the contractor.

3 (4) Contractors may not require directly or indirectly by contract
4 or otherwise that a chiropractor comply with health care reimbursement
5 or delivery standards that conflict with those standards and practices
6 authorized or adopted by the Washington state chiropractic quality
7 assurance commission. A contract may not prohibit a chiropractor from
8 delegating duties in accordance with rules governing the chiropractic
9 profession, nor may a contractor refuse to reimburse the contracted
10 chiropractor for such delegated services if those services would be
11 reimbursed if not delegated.

12 (5) Any term or condition of any contract between a chiropractor
13 and a contractor that violates a provision of this section and any
14 contractor attempt to waive, modify, or shift responsibility for
15 compliance with this section is invalid.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) This act does not affect any existing
17 right acquired or liability or obligation incurred prior to the
18 effective date of this act.

19 (2) If any provision of this act or its application to any person
20 or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the
21 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not
22 affected.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
26 July 1, 2007, and applies to all contracts that are executed,
27 continued, or renewed on and after January 1, 2008.

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