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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2005

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Dyer and Dellwo

Read first time 02/21/95. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the modification of provisions governing  
2 certified health plans providing vision benefits only; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 48.01 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.01 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) An insurer, health care service contractor, or health  
9 maintenance organization that offers coverage for vision services and  
10 that currently holds a certificate of authority or certificate of  
11 registration issued by the insurance commissioner under chapter 48.05,  
12 48.44, or 48.46 RCW may provide coverage for vision services as  
13 authorized by chapter 48.05, 48.44, or 48.46 RCW and as provided in  
14 this section. Such a company is deemed certified and registered as a  
15 certified health plan under RCW 43.72.090 and 48.43.010 for the  
16 delivery of coverage for vision services. The Washington health  
17 services commission and the insurance commissioner shall adopt  
18 standards and procedures to permit, upon request, the prompt  
19 certification and registration of such a company, and the issuance of

1 a certificate as a certified health plan. Such a certification and  
2 registration only authorizes the company to provide coverage for vision  
3 services and does not subject the company to requirements applicable to  
4 certified health plans except as specifically provided in this section.  
5 Such a company shall be known as a "Vision-Only CHP." The legislature  
6 does not intend by creating this designation to convey a market  
7 advantage over certified health plans providing coverage for vision  
8 services.

9 (2) A Vision-Only CHP may provide coverage for vision services to  
10 individuals, to employers for the benefit of employees or for the  
11 benefit of employees and their dependents, and to other persons,  
12 entities, and agencies authorized by law to purchase health care  
13 services from, or enroll in, a certified health plan. A Vision-Only  
14 CHP may provide such coverage by separate policy, contract, or rider  
15 issued directly to the purchaser, or it may subcontract to a certified  
16 health plan that provides the vision coverage as part of the uniform  
17 benefits package, supplemental benefits, or other arrangement delivered  
18 to the purchaser.

19 (3) If an individual, employer, or other purchaser purchases  
20 coverage for vision services from a Vision-Only CHP and that coverage  
21 is part of the uniform benefits package or supplemental benefits  
22 designed by the Washington health services commission and regulated by  
23 the commissioner, or part of a state-managed program of health care  
24 coverages, a certified health plan may provide to the purchaser the  
25 other coverages comprising the balance of the uniform benefits package,  
26 supplemental benefits, or state-managed program, by separate policy,  
27 contract, or rider. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
28 individual, employer, or other purchaser may purchase coverage for  
29 vision services in the uniform benefits package, supplemental benefits,  
30 or state-managed program from a Vision-Only CHP and concurrently  
31 purchase the balance of the required coverages separately from a  
32 certified health plan. To foster such concurrent purchases, the  
33 Washington health services commission and the commissioner shall  
34 develop and enforce separate cost containment and filing systems and  
35 procedures for vision coverages and other coverages, including separate  
36 community-rated premium submaximums and enrollee financial  
37 participation submaximums.

38 (4) A Vision-Only CHP shall fully comply with all applicable laws  
39 under chapter 48.05, 48.44, or 48.46 RCW governing the financial

1 supervision and solvency of such organizations, including but not  
2 limited to applicable laws concerning capital and surplus requirements,  
3 reserves, deposits, bonds, and indemnities. In the sale of coverage  
4 for vision services that is part of the uniform benefits package, a  
5 Vision-Only CHP shall comply with all applicable administrative rules  
6 prescribed by the health services commission, the insurance  
7 commissioner, and other state agencies governing certified health plans  
8 under RCW 43.72.100. The sale of vision coverages that are part of  
9 supplemental benefits are not subject to RCW 43.72.100, 43.72.160, or  
10 43.72.170.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
13 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
14 effect July 1, 1995.

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