

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5099

As Passed House - Amended:

March 5, 2002

Title: An act relating to the designation of licensed dental directors 2by carriers offering dental only coverage.

Brief Description: Designating medical directors.

Sponsors: By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Winsley and Thibaudeau).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/21/02, 2/25/02 [DPA].

Floor Activity:

Passed House - Amended: 3/5/02, 97-0.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill (As Amended by House)

- Health carriers that offer dental only coverage must designate a licensed dentist as dental director.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Schual-Berke, Vice Chair; Campbell, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Conway, Darneille, Edwards, Ruderman and Skinner.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

The Patient Bill of Rights requires health carriers to designate a medical director licensed to practice in this state. Health carriers that offer dental only coverage to the public are not required to have a medical director licensed as a dentist in Washington.

Summary of Amended Bill:

Health carriers that offer dental only coverage must designate a dental director who is licensed as a dentist in Washington or in a state determined by the Dental Assurance Commission to have substantially equivalent licensing standards.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The bill should allow dentists licensed in other states to serve as a dental director if the state they are licensed in has substantially equivalent licensing standards to Washington.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (Concerns) Nancy Wildermuth, Regence Blue Shield.