

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 6397

As Passed House - Amended:
March 4, 2020

Title: An act relating to nonparticipating providers.

Brief Description: Concerning nonparticipating providers.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Rolfes and Keiser; by request of Health Care Authority).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 2/29/20 [DPA].

Floor Activity:

Passed House - Amended: 3/4/20, 97-0.

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill
(As Amended by House)**

- Removes the July 1, 2021, expiration of provisions requiring Medicaid managed health care systems to maintain adequate provider networks and to pay nonparticipating providers no more than the lowest amount paid for the same services under contracts with similar providers in the state.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 31 members: Representatives Ormsby, Chair; Robinson, 1st Vice Chair; Bergquist, 2nd Vice Chair; Stokesbary, Ranking Minority Member; Rude, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Chandler, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Dolan, Dye, Fitzgibbon, Hansen, Hoff, Hudgins, Kilduff, Kraft, Macri, Mosbrucker, Pettigrew, Ryu, Schmick, Senn, Springer, Steele, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tarleton, Tharinger and Ybarra.

Staff: Meghan Morris (786-7119).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership with programs established in the federal Social Security Act and implemented at the state level with federal matching funds. Federal law provides a framework for medical coverage of children, pregnant women, parents, elderly and disabled adults, and other adults with varying income requirements.

Managed care is a prepaid, comprehensive system of medical and health care delivery, including preventive, primary, specialty, and ancillary health services through a network of providers. Managed care systems serving Medicaid clients must pay nonparticipating providers the lowest amounts the systems pay for the same services under the systems' contracts with similar providers in the state. Nonparticipating providers must accept those rates as payment in full, in addition to any deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments due from the patients. Enrollees are not liable to nonparticipating providers for covered services, except for amounts due for any deductibles, coinsurances, or copayments.

Managed care systems must maintain networks of appropriate providers sufficient to provide adequate access to all services covered under their contracts with the state, including hospital-based services. The Health Care Authority must monitor and periodically report to the Legislature on the proportion of services provided by contracted providers and nonparticipating providers for each of their managed care systems.

Requirements for Medicaid managed health care providers to maintain adequate provider networks and to pay nonparticipating providers the lowest amounts the systems pay for the same services with similar providers expire on July 1, 2021.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The July 1, 2021, expiration is removed for the requirements for Medicaid managed health care providers to maintain adequate provider networks and to pay nonparticipating providers the lowest amounts the systems pay for the same services with similar providers.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.