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SENATE BILL 5656

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, Esser and Franklin

Read first time 02/01/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to participation of denturists in preferred  
2 provider networks; and amending RCW 48.20.418, 48.21.148, 48.44.500,  
3 and 48.46.570.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.20.418 and 1995 c 1 s 21 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract  
8 covering dental care as provided for in this chapter, effective January  
9 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any service  
10 performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the  
11 service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license,  
12 and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had  
13 been performed by a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. An  
14 insurer shall allow a denturist to participate in any preferred  
15 provider network to the same extent, and under the same terms and  
16 conditions, as a dentist.

17            **Sec. 2.** RCW 48.21.148 and 1995 c 1 s 22 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

1           Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance  
2 contract or blanket disability insurance contract covering dental care  
3 as provided for in this chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits  
4 shall not be denied thereunder for any service performed by a denturist  
5 licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the service performed was  
6 within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract  
7 would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a  
8 dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. An insurer shall allow a  
9 denturist to participate in any preferred provider network to the same  
10 extent, and under the same terms and conditions, as a dentist.

11           **Sec. 3.** RCW 48.44.500 and 1995 c 1 s 24 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13           (1) Notwithstanding any provision of any health care service  
14 contract covering dental care as provided for in this chapter,  
15 effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for  
16 any service performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW  
17 if (~~((1))~~) (a) the service performed was within the lawful scope of  
18 such person's license, and (~~((2))~~) (b) such contract would have  
19 provided benefits if such service had been performed by a dentist  
20 licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW.

21           (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a health  
22 care service contractor shall allow a denturist to participate in any  
23 preferred provider network to the same extent, and under the same terms  
24 and conditions, as a dentist.

25           (3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to a health care  
26 service contractor that employs one or more denturists and contracts  
27 with a group dental practice on a reciprocal exclusive basis.

28           **Sec. 4.** RCW 48.46.570 and 1995 c 1 s 25 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30           (1) Notwithstanding any provision of any health maintenance  
31 organization agreement covering dental care as provided for in this  
32 chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied  
33 thereunder for any service performed by a denturist licensed under  
34 chapter 18.30 RCW if (~~((1))~~) (a) the service performed was within the  
35 lawful scope of such person's license, and (~~((2))~~) (b) such agreement

1 would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a  
2 dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW.

3 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a health  
4 maintenance organization shall allow a denturist to participate in any  
5 preferred provider network to the same extent, and under the same terms  
6 and conditions, as a dentist.

7 (3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to a health  
8 maintenance organization that employs one or more denturists and  
9 contracts with a group dental practice on a reciprocal exclusive basis.

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