



Sen. Cristina Castro

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1540

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 1540 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Vision Care Plan Regulation Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Covered materials" means materials for which
8 reimbursement from the vision care plan is provided to an eye
9 care provider by an enrollee's plan contract or for which a
10 reimbursement would be available but for the application of
11 the enrollee's contractual limitation of deductibles,
12 copayments, or coinsurance. "Covered materials" includes lens
13 treatment or coatings added to a spectacle lens if the base
14 spectacle lens is a covered material.

15 "Covered services" means services for which reimbursement
16 from the vision care plan is provided to an eye care provider

1 by an enrollee's plan contract or for which a reimbursement
2 would be available but for the application of the enrollee's
3 contractual plan limitation of deductibles, copayments, or
4 coinsurance regardless of how the benefits are listed in an
5 enrollee's benefit plan's definition of benefits.

6 "Enrollee" means any individual enrolled in a vision care
7 plan provided by a group, employer, or other entity that
8 purchases or supplies coverage for a vision care plan.

9 "Eye care provider" means a doctor of optometry licensed
10 pursuant to the Illinois Optometric Practice Act of 1987 or a
11 physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches
12 pursuant to the Medical Practice Act of 1987.

13 "Materials" means ophthalmic devices, including, but not
14 limited to:

15 (i) lenses, devices containing lenses, ophthalmic
16 frames, and other lens mounting apparatus, prisms, lens
17 treatments, and coatings;

18 (ii) contact lenses and prosthetic devices that
19 correct, relieve, or treat defects or abnormal conditions
20 of the human eye or adnexa; and

21 (iii) any devices that deliver medication or other
22 therapeutic treatment to the human eye or adnexa.

23 "Services" means the professional work performed by an eye
24 care provider.

25 "Subcontractor" means any company, group, or third-party
26 entity, including agents, servants, partially-owned or

1 wholly-owned subsidiaries and controlled organizations, that
2 the vision care plan contracts with to supply services or
3 materials for an eye care provider or enrollee to fulfill the
4 benefit plan of a vision care plan.

5 "Vision care organization" means an entity formed under
6 the laws of this State or another state that issues a vision
7 care plan.

8 "Vision care plan" means a plan that creates, promotes,
9 sells, provides, advertises, or administers an integrated or
10 stand-alone plan that provides coverage for covered services
11 and covered materials.

12 Section 10. Noncovered services.

13 (a) No vision care organization that issues, delivers,
14 amends, or renews a vision care plan on or after the effective
15 date of this Act shall issue a contract that requires an eye
16 care provider, as a condition of participation in the vision
17 care plan, to provide services or materials to an enrollee at a
18 fee set by the vision care plan unless the services or
19 materials are covered services or covered materials under the
20 vision care plan. De minimis reimbursements shall not qualify
21 a service or material as a covered service or a covered
22 material under this Act.

23 (b) An eye care provider who chooses not to accept as
24 payment an amount set by a vision care plan for services or
25 materials that are not covered services or covered materials

1 shall post, in a conspicuous place, a notice stating the
2 following: "IMPORTANT: This eye care provider does not accept
3 the fee schedule set by your insurer for vision care services
4 and vision care materials that are not covered benefits under
5 your plan and instead charges his or her normal fee for those
6 services and materials. This eye care provider will provide
7 you with an estimated cost for each noncovered service or
8 noncovered material upon your request."

9 Section 15. Fees for covered services and covered
10 materials. Fees paid under a vision care plan for covered
11 services and covered materials, regardless of the supplier or
12 optical lab used to obtain materials, shall be reasonable and
13 shall be clearly listed on a fee schedule that has been
14 provided to the eye care provider before entering into a
15 contract with the vision care organization. Fees paid for
16 materials supplied by a non-network lab are not required to be
17 identical to fees paid for materials ordered through a network
18 lab, but non-network lab fees shall be reasonable.

19 Section 20. Misrepresentation.

20 (a) A vision care organization and its officers,
21 directors, agents, and employees are subject to the provisions
22 of Sections 149 and 154.6 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

23 (b) Incorporation by reference in this Act to specific
24 laws of this State shall not be construed to exempt a vision

1 care organization or vision care plan from otherwise
2 applicable laws that are not specifically referenced in this
3 Act.

4 Section 25. Subcontractors. The provisions of this Act
5 apply to any subcontractors used by a vision care organization
6 to supply materials or services to an eye care provider or an
7 enrollee under a vision care plan.

8 Section 30. Suppliers; optical labs.

9 (a) A vision care organization may not restrict or limit
10 an eye care provider's choice of suppliers of services,
11 covered materials, or the use of an optical lab.

12 (b) A vision care organization may not require an eye care
13 provider or patient to order or purchase covered materials,
14 including, but not limited to, ophthalmic lenses, from any
15 source owned by, controlled by, or in a common ownership
16 scheme with the entity that issued the vision care plan.

17 (c) At the request of an enrollee, an eye care provider
18 recommending an out-of-network source or supplier of vision
19 care materials to an enrollee shall provide written notice to
20 the enrollee stating:

21 (1) that the source or supplier is an out-of-network
22 laboratory or supplier of vision care materials; and

23 (2) any business interest that the eye care provider
24 has in the out-of-network source or supplier recommended

1 to the enrollee.

2 (d) An eye care provider is required to offer an enrollee
3 in-network sources or suppliers of vision care materials at
4 the enrollee's request.

5 Section 35. Modification of plan.

6 (a) The terms, fees, discounts, or reimbursement rates in
7 a vision care plan may not be changed during the term of the
8 contract unless mutually agreed to in writing by the eye care
9 provider and the vision care organization that issued the
10 vision care plan. However, a change proposed to a vision care
11 plan by the vision care organization shall become effective if
12 the eye care provider fails to respond to the vision care
13 organization within 60 days after receipt of notice of the
14 proposed changes.

15 (b) The terms of a vision care plan contract that is
16 amended, delivered, issued, or renewed after the effective
17 date of this Act shall comply with the provisions of this Act.

18 Section 40. Prohibitions; medical plan preconditions.

19 (a) No vision care organization that issues, delivers,
20 amends, or renews a vision care plan on or after the effective
21 date of this Act shall issue a vision care plan contract that
22 requires:

23 (1) an eye care provider to contract with a plan that
24 offers supplemental or specialty health care services as a

1 condition of contracting with a plan that offers basic
2 health services; or

3 (2) an eye care provider to contract with a vision
4 care plan as a condition to participation in a medical
5 plan or in-network.

6 (b) A vision care plan may enter into an agreement with a
7 health care plan to deliver routine vision care services that
8 are covered under the enrollee's plan.

9 (c) A vision care plan may act as a network regarding
10 routine vision care services offered by a health care plan.

11 Section 900. The Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business
12 Practices Act is amended by adding Section 2BBBB as follows:

13 (815 ILCS 505/2BBBB new)

14 Sec. 2BBBB. Violations of the Vision Care Plan Regulation
15 Act. Any person who violates the Vision Care Plan Regulation
16 Act commits an unlawful practice within the meaning of this
17 Act.

18 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law."