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HOUSE BILL 2980

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Lisk, Prentice, Moyer, R. King and Paris

Read first time 02/07/92. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to reimbursement for medical services; and amending  
2 RCW 51.36.080.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.36.080 and 1987 c 470 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) All fees and medical charges under this title shall conform to  
7 regulations promulgated by the director and shall be paid within sixty  
8 days of receipt by the department of a proper billing in the form  
9 prescribed by department rule or sixty days after the claim is allowed  
10 by final order or judgment, if an otherwise proper billing is received  
11 by the department prior to final adjudication of claim allowance. The  
12 department shall pay interest at the rate of one percent per month, but  
13 at least one dollar per month, whenever the payment period exceeds the  
14 applicable sixty-day period on all proper fees and medical charges.

1       Beginning in fiscal year 1987, interest payments under this  
2 subsection may be paid only from funds appropriated to the department  
3 for administrative purposes. A record of payments made under this  
4 subsection shall be submitted twice yearly to the commerce and labor  
5 committees of the senate and the house of representatives and to the  
6 ways and means committees of the senate and the house of  
7 representatives.

8       Nothing in this section may be construed to require the payment of  
9 interest on any billing, fee, or charge if the industrial insurance  
10 claim on which the billing, fee, or charge is predicated is ultimately  
11 rejected or the billing, fee, or charge is otherwise not allowable.

12       In establishing fees for medical and other health care services,  
13 the director shall consider the director's duty to purchase health care  
14 in a prudent, cost-effective manner without unduly restricting access  
15 to necessary care by persons entitled to the care. With respect to  
16 workers admitted as hospital inpatients on or after July 1, 1987, the  
17 director shall pay for inpatient hospital services on the basis of  
18 diagnosis-related groups, contracting for services, or other prudent,  
19 cost-effective payment method, which the director shall establish by  
20 rules adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

21       In determining what services will be reimbursed, the department  
22 shall reimburse a health care practitioner for services within his or  
23 her scope of practice if the department reimburses another health care  
24 practitioner for the same or similar services, even if those services  
25 are performed in a different practice setting.

26       (2) The director may establish procedures for selectively or  
27 randomly auditing the accuracy of fees and medical billings submitted  
28 to the department under this title.