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HOUSE BILL 1963

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Roland and Campbell

Read first time 02/17/93. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance.

1 AN ACT Relating to insurance coverage of naturopathic services;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 48.20 RCW; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 48.21 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 48.44 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.20 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract  
8 as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied under the  
9 contract for health care services performed by a holder of a license  
10 issued under chapter 18.36A RCW if (1) the service performed was within  
11 the lawful scope of the person's license, and (2) the contract would  
12 have provided benefits if the service had been performed by a holder of  
13 a license issued under chapter 18.71 RCW. No provision of chapter  
14 18.71 RCW may be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

15 The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and  
16 procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of an  
17 existing contract.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance  
4 contract or blanket disability insurance contract as provided for in  
5 this chapter, benefits shall not be denied under the contract for  
6 health services performed by a holder of a license issued under chapter  
7 18.36A RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of  
8 the person's license, and (2) the contract would have provided benefits  
9 if the service had been performed by a holder of a license issued under  
10 chapter 18.71 RCW. No provision of chapter 18.71 RCW may be asserted  
11 to deny benefits under this section.

12        The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and  
13 procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of an  
14 existing contract.

15        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17        (1) Each group contract for comprehensive health care service that  
18 is entered into, or renewed, on or after September 8, 1983, between a  
19 health care service contractor and the person or persons to receive the  
20 care shall offer coverage for naturopathic care on the same basis as  
21 other care.

22        (2) A patient of a naturopath shall not be denied benefits under a  
23 contract because the practitioner is not licensed under chapter 18.57  
24 or 18.71 RCW.

25        (3) This section does not apply to a group contract for  
26 comprehensive health care services entered into in accordance with a  
27 collective bargaining agreement between management and labor  
28 representatives. Benefits for naturopathic care shall be offered by  
29 the employer in good faith on the same basis as other care as a subject  
30 for collective bargaining for group contracts for health care services.

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