
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5813

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, Costa and Winsley)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to health plan medical director licensure and
2 accountability; adding a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and adding
3 a new section to chapter 18.130 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 48.43 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Every health insurer shall designate a medical director who is
8 licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, who shall be subject to
9 section 2 of this act.

10 (2) For purposes of this section "health insurer" means a carrier,
11 the department of labor and industries, the health care authority, the
12 medical assistance administration of the department of social and
13 health services, and any self-insured health plan subject to the
14 jurisdiction of Washington state.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.130 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) For purposes of applying this chapter, any decision by a health
18 insurer to deny or limit payment for services because the services are

1 not medically necessary shall be deemed to be the decision of the
2 medical director designated in section 1 of this act.

3 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
4 section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (a) "Health insurer" has the same meaning as provided in section 1
6 of this act.

7 (b) "Services" means medical care or items from a person licensed
8 under chapter 18.57, 18.57A, 18.71, or 18.71A RCW, or as defined in RCW
9 18.79.050.

10 (3) The medical quality assurance commission and the state board of
11 osteopathic medicine and surgery may adopt rules to implement this
12 section.

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