

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5099

As Reported by House Committee On:

Health Care

Title: An act relating to the designation of licensed dental directors by carriers offering dental only coverage.

Brief Description: Designating medical directors.

Sponsors: By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Winsley and Thibaudeau).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 3/20/01, 3/23/01 [DP].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Health carriers that offer dental only coverage must designate a licensed dentist as dental director.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Campbell, Republican Co-Chair; Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Skinner, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Darneille, Edmonds, Edwards, Marine, McMorris, Pennington and Ruderman.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

The Patient Bill of Rights requires health carriers to designate a medical director licensed to practice in this state. Health carriers that offer dental only coverage to the public are not required to have a medical director licensed as a dentist in Washington.

Summary of Bill:

Health carriers that offer dental only coverage must designate a dental director who is licensed as a dentist in Washington

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Medical directors for health carriers that offer dental only coverage should be licensed dentists. This will protect consumers.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Winsley, prime sponsor.