

1 **HB 1691 - H AMD 0121 WITHDRAWN 3-18-03**

2 By Representative Chandler

3 Beginning on page 1, line 11, strike all of subsection (1) of  
4 section 1 and insert the following:

5 "The ability of the department to manage industrial insurance  
6 health services becomes more difficult as the number or providers  
7 and scopes of practice are expanded. The integrity of the  
8 industrial insurance program of this state depends in large part  
9 upon the provision of quality health and vocational services and  
10 care to workers covered under this title. Medically unnecessary or  
11 inappropriate health and vocational services delay the recovery  
12 process, have grave potential for further injury to workers, and  
13 escalate the cost of the industrial insurance program at great  
14 unfairness to both workers and employers of this state. Therefore,  
15 the director or the director's designee shall accomplish the  
16 following objectives.

17 (1) The director shall supervise the providing of prompt and  
18 efficient care and treatment, including ((eare)) services provided  
19 by physician assistants governed by the provisions of chapters  
20 18.57A and 18.71A RCW, acting under a supervising physician,  
21 ((and)) including chiropractic care, and including care provided by  
22 licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners, to workers  
23 injured during the course of their employment at the least cost  
24 consistent with promptness and efficiency, without discrimination  
25 or favoritism, and with as great uniformity as the various and  
26 diverse surrounding circumstances and locations of industries will  
27 permit and to that end shall, from time to time, establish and  
28 adopt and supervise the administration of printed forms, rules,  
29 regulations, and practices for the furnishing of such care and  
30 treatment: PROVIDED, That the department may adopt rules that  
31 prescribe limits on the number or type of treatments, tests, or  
32 procedures provided to injured workers by licensed advanced  
33 registered nurse practitioners, based upon the most current medical  
34 and scientific evidence or the likelihood that such treatments,  
35 tests, or procedures are curative or rehabilitative, that is, that

1 they are substantially likely to improve the worker's functional  
2 abilities, particularly related to return to work: PROVIDED  
3 FURTHER, That the medical coverage decisions of the department do  
4 not constitute a "rule" as used in RCW 34.05.010(16), nor are such  
5 decisions subject to the rule-making provisions of chapter 34.05  
6 RCW except that criteria for establishing medical coverage  
7 decisions shall be adopted by rule after consultation with the  
8 workers' compensation advisory committee established in RCW  
9 51.04.110: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the department may recommend to  
10 an injured worker particular health care services and providers  
11 where specialized treatment is indicated or where cost effective  
12 payment levels or rates are obtained by the department: AND  
13 PROVIDED FURTHER, That the department may enter into contracts for  
14 goods and services including, but not limited to, durable medical  
15 equipment so long as statewide access to quality service is  
16 maintained for injured workers."

17 On page 18, after line 24, insert the following:

18 "A licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner provider may  
19 appeal any action, decision, or order by the director or the  
20 director's authorized representative under this section.  
21 Proceedings during the appeal shall be as prescribed in this title.  
22 Any order terminating or suspending a licensed advanced registered  
23 nurse practitioner provider's eligibility to render services to  
24 industrially injured workers pursuant to this section shall become  
25 effective thirty days after the date the department order is  
26 communicated to the provider. An appeal by a provider shall not  
27 act as a stay of the action unless the board or court, for good  
28 cause shown, orders otherwise."

**EFFECT:** Gives the Department of Labor and Industries greater authority to oversee the utilization of health care services provided by licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners and to discipline participating licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner providers.