
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2943

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Curtis, Morrell, Campbell, Green, Clibborn, Kessler, Serben, Rodne, Roach, Moeller, Buri, Pearson, McCune, Appleton, Kenney, Hasegawa and Dunn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care provider contracting; adding a new
2 section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Every health carrier, insurer, and other organization engaged
7 in the business of creating provider networks shall comply with the
8 provisions of this section in selecting and contracting with health
9 care providers. For the purpose of this section, "contractor" refers
10 to health carriers, insurers, and other organizations engaged in the
11 business of creating provider networks.

12 (2) Contractors may not discriminate against various classes of
13 health care practitioners by adopting health care network selection and
14 credentialing standards that permit selection and credentialing of
15 clinics of only one or certain classes of practitioners. For example
16 and not as a limitation of this subsection, if a contractor permits a
17 clinic comprising physicians and nurses to contract on a clinic rather
18 than upon an individual basis, the contractor must permit a clinic

1 comprising chiropractors and licensed massage therapists to contract on
2 a clinic rather than upon an individual basis.

3 (3) Contractors may not refuse to contract with a provider or
4 providers who purchase the practice of an existing contracted provider
5 if the purchasing provider or providers otherwise meet the
6 credentialing standards of the contractor and agree to comply with the
7 terms and conditions of the provider contract, including provisions
8 related to quality assurance and utilization review.

9 (4) Contractors may not refuse to contract with a provider who
10 works as an employee of a contracted provider if the employee otherwise
11 meets the credentialing standards of the contractor and agrees to
12 comply with the terms and conditions of the provider contract,
13 including provisions related to quality assurance and utilization
14 review.

15 (5) A contractor may not directly or indirectly require a health
16 care provider to participate in any arrangement that is not a health
17 plan as a condition for participating in any of the contractor's health
18 plans.

19 (6) For purposes of this section, "health plan" includes a health
20 plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005 and medical coverage programs
21 administered by the health care authority.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The insurance commissioner may adopt rules
23 necessary to implement this act.

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