

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2420

C 207 L 12
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Repealing the requirement for a study and report concerning direct practices that the office of the insurance commissioner must provide to the legislature.

Sponsors: Representatives Cody, Roberts and Uptegrove; by request of Insurance Commissioner.

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

Background:

A direct patient-provider primary care practice (direct practice) is a health care provider or a group of health care providers that furnishes primary care services through a direct agreement with a patient. Under the direct agreement, the direct practice charges a monthly fee in exchange for being available to provide primary care services to the patient. While direct practices are not insurance carriers, they are required to register annually with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC).

The Insurance Commissioner (Commissioner) reports annually to the Legislature on direct practices including participation trends, complaints received, voluntary data reported by the direct practices, and any necessary modifications to the law on direct practices.

In addition to the annual reports, the Commissioner is required to submit to the Legislature, by December 1, 2012, a study of direct practices. This study must include an analysis of the extent to which direct practices:

- improve or reduce access to primary health care services;
- provide adequate protection for consumers;
- increase premium costs for individuals covered through traditional health insurance;
- impact a health carrier's ability to meet network adequacy standards; and
- cover a population different from that covered through traditional health insurance.

The study must also examine the extent to which participation in a direct practice maintains health coverage for conditions not covered by the direct practice. The Commissioner must make recommendations to the Legislature on whether direct practice authority should be continued, modified, or repealed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary:

The requirement is repealed for the Commissioner to submit a 2012 study on direct practices to the Legislature.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0
Senate	49	0

Effective: June 7, 2012