

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1652

As of March 20, 2015

Title: An act relating to medicaid managed health care system payments for health care services provided by nonparticipating providers.

Brief Description: Concerning medicaid managed health care system payments for health care services provided by nonparticipating providers.

Sponsors: Representatives Cody and Harris; by request of Health Care Authority.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/09/15, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Health Care: 3/19/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Staff: Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

Background: The 2011 Legislature passed SB 5927 to require the Medicaid-managed care plans to pay a nonparticipating provider no more than the lowest amount paid for that service under the managed care system's contracts with similar providers in the state. Nonparticipating providers must accept the amount paid by the managed care plan as payment in full, except for any deductible, co-insurance, or co-payment that is due from the enrollee.

The Medicaid-managed care plans must meet federal requirements to maintain a network of appropriate providers sufficient to provide adequate access to all covered services. The 2011 legislation required the Health Care Authority to monitor and report on the proportion of services provided by contracted providers and nonparticipating providers, by county, for each managed care plan to ensure the network adequacy requirements are met.

Prior to passage of the 2011 legislation, a Snohomish County Superior Court decision indicated a managed care plan should pay a non-contracted practitioner the full amount billed by the practitioner. There were estimates for significant impact to the managed care rates, and the state budget, if the ruling was applied statewide.

These provisions expire July 1, 2016.

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 of Bill: The July 1, 2016, expiration is removed. The Medicaid-managed care plans must pay a nonparticipating provider no more than the lowest amount paid for that service under the managed care system's contracts with similar providers in the state if the managed care plan has made good faith efforts to contract with the nonparticipating provider.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The 2011 bill tried to reach the necessary accommodation with access and fiscal control and that is why the sunset was included. We have had good experience with the language, and have accrued the savings, and now it is time to remove the sunset. This language provides the safeguards against the state having to pay the full billed charges of non-participating providers. This version includes an added incentive to ensure the managed care plans have approached a provider to contract as a participating provider.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Kathryn Kolan, WA State Medical Assn.; Jonathan Seib, Molina Healthcare of WA; Preston Cody, WA State Health Care Authority.

Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying: No one.