

JAN 22 2003

HOUSE FILE 46

COMMERCE, REGULATION & LABOR

BY FOEGE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the provision under a group health insurance
2 policy or health maintenance organization contract for
3 compensation of podiatrists.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF-46

1 Section 1. Section 509.3, Code 2003, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. A provision shall be made available to
4 policyholders, under group policies covering hospital,
5 medical, or surgical expenses for payment of necessary medical
6 or surgical care and treatment, as well as drug prescriptions,
7 provided by a person licensed to practice podiatry under
8 chapter 149, if the care and treatment are provided within the
9 scope of the person's license and if the policy would pay for
10 the care and treatment if the care and treatment were provided
11 by a person engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery as
12 licensed under chapter 148 or 150A. The policy shall provide
13 that the policyholder may reject the coverage or provision if
14 the coverage or provision for similar services which may be
15 provided by a podiatric physician is rejected for all
16 providers of services as licensed under chapter 148, 149, or
17 150A. This subsection applies to group policies delivered or
18 issued for delivery on or after July 1, 2003, and to existing
19 group policies on their next anniversary or renewal date, or
20 upon expiration of the applicable collective bargaining
21 contract, if any, whichever is later. This subsection does
22 not apply to blanket, short-term travel, accident-only,
23 limited or specified disease, or individual or group
24 conversion policies, or policies designed only for issuance to
25 persons for coverage under Title XVIII of the federal Social
26 Security Act, or any other similar coverage under a state or
27 federal government plan.

28 Sec. 2. Section 509.3, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 2003,
29 is amended to read as follows:

30 In addition to the provisions required in subsections 1
31 through 7 8, the commissioner shall require provisions through
32 the adoption of rules implementing the federal Health
33 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Pub. L. No. 104-
34 191.

35 Sec. 3. Section 514B.1, subsection 5, Code 2003, is

1 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

2 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. The health care services available to
3 enrollees under prepaid group plans covering hospital,
4 medical, or surgical expenses shall include a provision for
5 payment of necessary medical or surgical care and treatment as
6 well as drug prescriptions provided by a person licensed to
7 practice podiatry under chapter 149, if performed within the
8 scope of the person's license and the plan would pay for the
9 care and treatment when the care and treatment were provided
10 by a person engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery as
11 licensed under chapter 148 or 150A. The plan shall provide
12 that the plan enrollees may reject the coverage for services
13 which may be provided by a podiatric physician if the coverage
14 is rejected for all providers of similar services as licensed
15 under chapter 148, 149, or 150A. This paragraph applies to
16 services provided under plans made on or after July 1, 2003,
17 and to existing group plans on their next anniversary or
18 renewal date, or upon the expiration of the applicable
19 collective bargaining contract, if any, whichever is the
20 later. This paragraph does not apply to enrollees eligible
21 for coverage under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security
22 Act or any other similar coverage under a state or federal
23 government plan.

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EXPLANATION

25 This bill establishes provisions under group insurance
26 policies and health maintenance organization contracts to
27 require that if the policy or available health care services
28 currently cover or include care and treatment, as well as drug
29 prescriptions, if provided by a person licensed to practice
30 medicine and surgery under Code chapter 148 or a person
31 licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery under
32 Code chapter 150A, the plan or health care services available
33 shall also allow for provision of the care and treatment, as
34 well as drug prescriptions, by a podiatrist. The bill also
35 requires that the care or treatment be within the scope of

1 practice of the podiatrist. The requirement applies to
2 policies delivered and issued and services provided under
3 plans on or after July 1, 2003, and to existing plans on the
4 latter of the anniversary, renewal, or expiration of a
5 collective bargaining contract.

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