

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Avakian
Prepared By:	Anna Braun, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands definition of attending physician in workers' compensation claims to include chiropractic physicians, podiatric physicians, naturopathic physicians and physician assistants and allows those providers to authorize compensable care for 60 days from initial visit for a total of 18 visits. Allows providers to authorize temporary disability for 30 days. Requires the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to provide informational materials and requires medical service providers to review materials. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Attending physician as gatekeeper
- 2006 care provider study
- Support of the Management-Labor Advisory Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, only physicians (MD), doctors of osteopathy (DO), and oral and maxillofacial surgeons are authorized to function as attending physicians in workers' compensation claims. Providers who are not designated by statute as an attending physician, such as naturopaths, podiatrists, and physician assistants, can provide compensable medical services for an injured worker without the authorization for up to 30 days from the date of the occupational injury or illness or for 12 office visits, whichever comes first. Chiropractors may function as an attending physician for any 30-day or 12-visit period within the workers' initial claim, and are considered a non-attending provider once the worker exhausts the treatment limits.

HB 2756-A expands the timeframe to 60 days and 18 visits for compensable treatment for chiropractic physicians, podiatric physicians, naturopathic physicians and physician assistants. HB 2756-A also allows temporary disability benefits for 30 days and requires the director of DCBS to provide educational materials and certify the providers have adequately reviewed them.

HB 2756-A continues the limitation that only MDs, DOs and maxillofacial surgeons have the authority to determine a worker's permanent impairment.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.