

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Cannon, Doherty, Hoyle, Parrish, Weidner, Greenlick, Thompson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Kennemer
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/16, 5/18, 5/23, 5/25, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts retainer medical practice from application of Insurance Code if health care provider maintaining practice is certified by Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) and meets specified criteria. Authorizes DCBS to investigate and take enforcement actions with respect to health care provider maintaining or purporting to maintain retainer medical practice. Deletes requirement that retainer medical practice may not require a payment fee for period covering more than one month; and practice must reimburse any retainer medical fees for services agreed to be provided but that are not provided during the term of medical retainer agreement. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fee for service model versus retainer medical practices
- Direct practice benefits
- Concerns relating to consumer protection
- Lane County pilot project
- Health care versus health insurance
- Concerns relating to screening and acceptance of individuals into practice
- Positive impacts for chronic condition management and access for uninsured population
- Pros and cons of removing certification requirement
- Need for stability for these practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes requirement that retainer medical practice may not require payment fee for period covering more than one month. Deletes requirement that practice must reimburse any retainer medical fees for services agreed to be provided but that are not provided during the term of medical retainer agreement.

BACKGROUND: A retainer medical practice, (also referred to as boutique medicine, premier care, VIP care, platinum practices, or a concierge practice), is a practice where physician(s) limit the number of patients in the practice while charging patients a monthly or annual fee for a defined package of medical services. Some time the packages are for personalized care and extensive preventive health care services that include a comprehensive annual physical exam and immediate access to the physician 24/7. Retainer medical practices could be subject to the Insurance Code because the operating physician(s) of the practice is assuming the risk and therefore the arrangements could be considered insurance.

Senate Bill 86-B exempts retainer medical practices from the Insurance Code requirements if the practice is certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS).

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