

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Starr, Thomsen, Beyer

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends period during which nurse practitioner may provide services to injured worker. Modifies authority of nurse practitioners and chiropractic physicians to provide services to injured workers enrolled in managed care organizations. Requires managed care organizations to provide dispute resolution process for disputes between managed care organization and health care providers, except for those health care providers terminated from or denied participation in a plan. Specifies conditions under which managed care organization may deny or terminate participation of primary care physician, chiropractic physician or nurse practitioner in managed care organization.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Qualifications of nurse practitioners and chiropractic physicians
- Benefits of receiving care from one's regular health care provider
- Unanimous support of Management-Labor Advisory Committee
- Timelines for care in workers' compensation cases
- Levels of malpractice insurance carried by nurse practitioners and chiropractic physicians

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies language regarding when nurse practitioner may provide medical treatment as medically appropriate according to managed care organization's Service Utilization Review process. Deletes requirement for dispute resolution process for health care providers terminated from or denied participation in a plan.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 533-A is the product of a subcommittee of the Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) that focused on issues related to injured workers' access to medical treatment and with health care providers leaving the workers' compensation system. The measure's proponents assert that it will improve access to care in workers' compensation cases and will allow patients to receive care from their regular care provider for a longer period of time, while allowing collaboration with specialists as needed.