

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Weidner, Witt, Doherty

Nays: 0

Exc.: Thompson

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/1

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:

- Management-Labor Advisory Committee's efforts over past two years to review issues addressed in measure
- Reasons why injured workers may experience a shortage of treatment providers
- Barriers providers may experience to being accepted on Managed Care Organization (MCO) panel
- Why provider may be denied acceptance on MCO panel
- Costs to MCO of developing panel of providers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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. Eleven meetings over a two-year period resulted in the drafting of Senate Bill 533. 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.