

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits specified terms imposed on vision care provider by vision care insurance or vision care discount card.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current vision insurance business practices
- Ability for small optic labs to be competitive
- Restrictive contractual arrangements
- Forced discounts and low reimbursement rates
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Deletes the restrictions that a discount card can limit the providers' choice of suppliers of materials.

BACKGROUND:

Vision insurance and discount plans can lower your cost of eye care and prescription eyewear. There are many types of vision insurance plans, some that work with Medicare and Medicaid vision benefits.

It has been reported that some national vision insurance companies are engaging in business practices that are creating barriers for patients seeking vision care in Oregon. One example of such practices is the requirement that vision insurers have to use their ophthalmic lab to manufacture lenses for the patients, not the lab preferred by the eye care provider.