

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/27/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

**Meeting Dates:** 05/27

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Patient choice and convenience
- Promotion of Oregon's small businesses
- Acceptance of vision plans as condition of seeing patients
- Premium calculations based on not paying for additional services
- Raising member costs and denial of benefits
- Ability of vision plan to negotiate discounts for members
- Requirement to provide discounts on non-covered services and materials

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Specifies that discount card does not include discount medical plan. Requires that contract may not restrict or limit vision care provider's choice of suppliers or 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.