

Senate Bill 772

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires individual and group health insurance policies to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within scope of their practice if services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians. Requires reimbursement paid to naturopathic physician in independent practice to be in same amount as reimbursement paid to physician.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to naturopathic physicians; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part of the Insurance Code.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Health benefit plan" has the meaning given that term in ORS 743B.005.

(b) "Independent practice" means the naturopathic physician bills insurers for services provided by the naturopathic physician using the:

(A) Diagnosis and procedure codes applicable to the services;

(B) Naturopathic physician's own name; and

(C) Naturopathic physician's national provider identifier.

(c) "Naturopathic physician" has the meaning given that term in ORS 685.010.

(d) "Physician" has the meaning given that term in ORS 677.010.

(2) An individual or group health benefit plan that reimburses the cost of a service provided by a physician shall reimburse the cost of the same service provided by a naturopathic physician if the service is within the scope of practice of the naturopathic physician.

(3) An individual or group health benefit plan shall reimburse the cost of a service provided by a naturopathic physician who is in an independent practice in the same amount and using the same payment methodology as the reimbursement paid under the plan to a physician providing the service in the same setting and geographic area.

(4) An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a physician in order to comply with this section.

(5) This section is exempt from ORS 743A.001.

SECTION 3. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "In-network provider" means a health care professional who contracts with an insurer to provide care to insureds under health insurance policies issued by the insurer.

(b) "Out-of-network provider" means a health care professional who provides care to an insured under a health insurance policy issued by an insurer but who does not have a contract with the insurer to provide care.

(2) Section 2 of this 2021 Act applies to:

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) Services billed by an in-network provider on or after the effective date of this 2021
2 Act; and

3 (b) Services provided by an out-of-network provider on or after the effective date of this
4 2021 Act.

5 SECTION 4. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
6 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
7 on its passage.

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