

2014 -- H 7542

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY AND
QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Carnevale, San Bento, Lima, Slater, and Keable

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17.13 of the General Laws entitled "Health Care Accessibility
2 and Quality Assurance Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-17.13-7. Contracts with providers and optometric services.** – (a) No contract
4 between an optometrist as defined in chapter 35.1 of title 5 and an insurer, including a company
5 offering accident and sickness insurance as defined in chapter 18 of title 27, a nonprofit hospital
6 service corporation as defined in chapter 19 of title 27, a nonprofit medical service corporation as
7 defined in chapter 20 of title 27, or a health maintenance organization as defined in chapter 41 of
8 title 27, or a vision plan, may require that an optometrist provide services or materials to its
9 subscribers at a fee set by the insurer or vision plan unless the insurer or vision plan compensates
10 the optometrist for the provision of such services or materials to the patient. Reimbursement paid
11 by the insurer or vision plan for covered services and materials shall be reasonable and shall not
12 provide nominal reimbursement in order to claim that services and materials are covered services.

13 (b)(1) "Services" means services and materials for which reimbursement from the vision
14 plan is provided for by an enrollee's plan contract, or for which a reimbursement would be
15 available but for the application of the enrollee's contractual limitations of deductibles,
16 copayments, or coinsurance.

17 (2) "Materials" means and includes, but is not limited to, lenses, devices containing
18 lenses, prisms, lens treatments and coatings, contact lenses, orthoptics, vision training, and

1 [prosthetic devices to correct, relieve or treat defects or abnormal conditions of the human eye or](#)
2 [its adnexa.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY AND
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1 This act would provide that no contract between an insurance company or similar entity
2 and an optometrist would require the optometrist to provide services to a subscriber at a price set
3 by the insurer, unless the services were covered under the applicable insurance agreement.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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