GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 14
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/7/09

Short Title: Chiropractic Services/Insurance. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 2, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN CO-PAYMENTS FOR CHIROPRACTIC, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, AND PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 58-50-30(a3) reads as rewritten:

"(a3) Whenever any health benefit plan, subscriber contract, or policy of insurance issued by a health maintenance organization, hospital or medical service corporation, or insurer governed by Articles 1 through 67 of this Chapter provides coverage for medically necessary treatment, the insurer shall not impose any limitation on treatment or levels of coverage if performed by a duly licensed chiropractor acting within the scope of the chiropractor's practice as defined in G.S. 90-151 unless a comparable limitation is imposed on the medically necessary treatment if performed or authorized by any other duly licensed physician. <u>An insurer shall not impose as a limitation on treatment or level of coverage a co-payment amount charged to the insured for chiropractic services that is higher than the co-payment amount charged under the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.</u>"

SECTION 2. G.S. 58-50-30 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"<u>(a4)</u> <u>Whenever any health benefit plan, subscriber contract, or policy of insurance issued by a health maintenance organization, hospital or medical service corporation, or insurer governed by Articles 1 through 67 of this Chapter provides coverage for medically necessary treatment, the insurer shall not impose as a limitation on treatment or level of coverage a co-payment amount for services performed by a duly licensed occupational therapist acting within the scope of practice authorized under G.S. 90-270.67 or by a duly licensed physical therapist acting within the scope of practice authorized under G.S. 90-270.24 that is higher than the co-payment amount charged to the insured for occupational therapy or physical therapy under the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.</u>"

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 2009, and applies to policies issued or renewed on or after that date. For the purposes of this act, renewal of a health benefit plan is presumed to occur on each anniversary of the date on which coverage was first effective on the person or persons covered by the health benefit plan.