

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 1163

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to contracts between certain health care providers and
3 health benefit plans.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 3(b), Article 3.70-3C, Insurance Code,
6 as added by Chapter 1024, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular
7 Session, 1997, is amended by adding Subdivision (5) to read as
8 follows:

9 (5) An insurer may not withhold a designation to a
10 podiatrist described by Subsection (p) of this section.

11 SECTION 2. Section 3, Article 3.70-3C, Insurance Code, as
12 added by Chapter 1024, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular
13 Session, 1997, is amended by adding Subsection (p) to read as
14 follows:

15 (p) An insurer may not withhold the designation of preferred
16 provider to a podiatrist licensed by the Texas State Board of
17 Podiatric Medical Examiners who joins the professional practice of
18 a contracted preferred provider, applies to the insurer for
19 designation as a preferred provider, and complies with the terms
20 and conditions of eligibility to be a preferred provider. A
21 podiatrist designated as a preferred provider under this subsection
22 must comply with the terms of the preferred provider contract used
23 by the insurer or the insurer's network provider.

24 SECTION 3. Section 843.303, Insurance Code, as effective

1 June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as
2 follows:

3 (c) A health maintenance organization may not deny a
4 contract to a podiatrist described by Section 843.319.

5 SECTION 4. Subchapter I, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, as
6 effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 843.319 to read
7 as follows:

8 Sec. 843.319. CERTAIN REQUIRED CONTRACTS. A health
9 maintenance organization may not deny a contract to a podiatrist
10 licensed by the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners
11 who joins the professional practice of a contracting physician or
12 provider, satisfies the application procedures of the health
13 maintenance organization, and meets the qualification and
14 credentialing requirements for contracting with the health
15 maintenance organization.

16 SECTION 5. Section 3(p), Article 3.70-3C, and Section
17 843.319, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, apply only to an
18 application for designation as a preferred provider or an
19 application to contract with a health maintenance organization
20 submitted to an insurer or health maintenance organization on or
21 after September 1, 2003. An application submitted before that date
22 is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the
23 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for
24 that purpose.

25 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.