

By: Taylor

H.B. No. 3022

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3022:

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C.S.H.B. No. 3022

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability of preferred providers.

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

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

(a) Any insurer offering a preferred provider benefit plan must ensure that both preferred provider benefits and basic level benefits are reasonably available to all insureds within a designated service area. This subsection may not be construed to limit the level of reimbursement or the level of coverage, including deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing provisions, that are applicable to preferred providers or nonpreferred providers.

SECTION 2. Section 9, Article 3.70-3C, Insurance Code, as added by Chapter 1024, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 9. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this article and to ensure reasonable accessibility and availability of preferred provider services [~~and basic level benefits~~] to Texas citizens.

SECTION 3. This Act applies only to an insurance policy, certificate, or contract delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2004. A policy, certificate, or contract

1 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2004,
2 is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the
3 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for
4 that purpose.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.