

By: Taylor

H.B. No. 3023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to improving access to health care for the citizens of  
3 Texas by providing for the reimbursement and use of particular  
4 health care practitioners who are licensed by the state to provide  
5 certain services.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 3, Article 21.52, Insurance Code,  
8 subsection (d) is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 3. SELECTION OF PRACTITIONERS. (d) There shall not  
10 be any classification, differentiation, or other discrimination in  
11 the Payment schedule or in the payment provisions in a health  
12 insurance Policy, nor in the amount or manner of payment or  
13 reimbursement Thereunder, between scheduled services or procedures  
14 when performed by a doctor of podiatric medicine, a doctor of  
15 optometry, a doctor of chiropractic, a licensed dentist, an  
16 occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a licensed  
17 audiologist, a licensed speech-language pathologist, a licensed  
18 master social worker--advanced clinical practitioner, a licensed  
19 dietitian, a licensed professional counselor, a licensed marriage  
20 and family therapist, a psychologist, a licensed psychological  
21 associate, a licensed chemical dependency counselor, an advanced  
22 practice nurse or a registered nurse first assistant to provide the  
23 services scheduled in the policy, a physician assistant or a  
24 licensed surgical assistant to provide the services scheduled in

1 the policy, a licensed acupuncturist, a licensed hearing instrument  
2 fitter and dispenser, or which fall within the scope of that  
3 practitioner's license or certification and the same services or  
4 procedures when performed by an other practitioner of the healing  
5 arts who services or procedures are covered by the policy. However,  
6 a health insurance policy may provide for a different amount of  
7 payment or reimbursement for scheduled services or procedures when  
8 performed by an advanced practice nurse or physician assistant  
9 provided the reimbursement methodology used to calculate the  
10 payment for the service or procedure is the same methodology used to  
11 calculate the payment when the service or procedure is provided by a  
12 physician. This section applies to a carrier's rate of payment of  
13 reimbursement to these types of providers or practitioners under a  
14 health insurance policy; it does not apply to an insured  
15 cost-sharing amounts, such as coinsurance, copayments or  
16 deductibles.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.