

1-1 By: Shapleigh S.B. No. 494  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 14, 2003; February 19, 2003,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
1-4 March 12, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; March 12, 2003,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 494 By: Madla

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to information provided by certain health benefit plans  
1-11 through the Internet.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Article 3.70-3C, Insurance Code, as added by  
1-14 Chapter 1024, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997,  
1-15 is amended by adding Section 6A to read as follows:

1-16 Sec. 6A. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET SITE. (a)  
1-17 An insurer subject to this article that maintains an Internet site  
1-18 shall list on the Internet site the preferred providers, including,  
1-19 if appropriate, mental health providers and substance abuse  
1-20 treatment providers, that may be used by insureds in accordance  
1-21 with the terms of the insured's preferred provider benefit plan.  
1-22 The listing must identify those preferred providers who continue to  
1-23 be available to provide services to new patients or clients.

1-24 (b) The insurer shall update at least quarterly an Internet  
1-25 site subject to this section.

1-26 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
1-27 implement this section. The rules may govern the form and content  
1-28 of the information required to be provided under Subsection (a) of  
1-29 this section.

1-30 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article,  
1-31 this section applies to an entity subject to Chapter 941 or 942 of  
1-32 this code and to a multiple employer welfare arrangement that holds  
1-33 a certificate of authority under Chapter 846 of this code.

1-34 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 842, Insurance Code, as  
1-35 effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 842.261 to read  
1-36 as follows:

1-37 Sec. 842.261. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET SITE.

1-38 (a) A group hospital service corporation that maintains an  
1-39 Internet site shall list on the Internet site the physicians and  
1-40 health care providers, including, if appropriate, mental health  
1-41 providers and substance abuse treatment providers, that may be used  
1-42 by members in accordance with the terms of the policy or certificate  
1-43 applicable to the member. The listing must identify those  
1-44 physicians and health care providers who continue to be available  
1-45 to provide services to new patients or clients.

1-46 (b) The group hospital service corporation shall update at  
1-47 least quarterly an Internet site subject to this section.

1-48 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
1-49 implement this section. The rules may govern the form and content  
1-50 of the information required to be provided under Subsection (a).

1-51 SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, as  
1-52 effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 843.2015 to  
1-53 read as follows:

1-54 Sec. 843.2015. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET

1-55 SITE. (a) A health maintenance organization that maintains an  
1-56 Internet site shall list on the Internet site the physicians and  
1-57 providers, including, if appropriate, mental health providers and  
1-58 substance abuse treatment providers, that may be used by enrollees  
1-59 in accordance with the terms of the enrollee's health care plan.  
1-60 The listing must identify those physicians and providers who  
1-61 continue to be available to provide services to new patients or  
1-62 clients.

1-63 (b) The health maintenance organization shall update at

2-1 least quarterly an Internet site subject to this section.  
2-2 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
2-3 implement this section. The rules may govern the form and content  
2-4 of the information required to be provided under Subsection (a).

2-5 SECTION 4. An insurer, group hospital service corporation,  
2-6 or health maintenance organization is not required to comply with  
2-7 the change in law made by this Act before January 1, 2004.

2-8 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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