

By: Carona

S.B. No. 554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to contracts between dentists and health maintenance organizations or insurers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 843.3115 to read as follows:

Sec. 843.3115. CONTRACTS WITH DENTISTS. A contract between a health maintenance organization and a dentist may not limit the fee the dentist may charge for a service for which an enrollee's health care plan does not provide a benefit or reimbursement, including a service that exceeds the annual or lifetime maximum plan limit or that is provided during a waiting period.

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 1451, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1451.2065 to read as follows:

Sec. 1451.2065. CONTRACTS WITH DENTISTS. A contract between an insurer and a dentist may not limit the fee the dentist may charge for a service for which a patient's employee benefit plan or health insurance policy does not provide a benefit or reimbursement, including a service that exceeds the annual or lifetime maximum limit of the plan or policy or that is provided during a waiting period.

SECTION 3. Sections 843.3115 and 1451.2065, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act. A contract

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1 entered into or renewed before the effective date of this Act is
2 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
3 of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.