

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reimbursement under preferred provider benefit plans
for services provided by licensed podiatrists.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1301.062, Insurance Code, is amended to
read as follows:

Sec. 1301.062. PREFERRED PROVIDER CONTRACTS BETWEEN
INSURERS AND PODIATRISTS. (a) In this section, "podiatrist" means
a podiatrist licensed by the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical
Examiners under Chapter 202, Occupations Code.

(b) A preferred provider contract between an insurer and a
podiatrist [~~licensed by the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical~~
~~Examiners~~] must provide that:

(1) the podiatrist may request a copy of the coding
guidelines and payment schedules applicable to the compensation
that the podiatrist will receive under the contract for services;

(2) the insurer shall provide a copy of the coding
guidelines and payment schedules not later than the 30th day after
the date of the podiatrist's request;

(3) the insurer may not unilaterally make material
retroactive revisions to the coding guidelines and payment
schedules; ~~and~~

(4) the podiatrist may, practicing within the scope of
the law regulating podiatry, furnish x-rays and nonprefabricated

1 orthotics covered by the health insurance policy; and

2 (5) the methodology used to compute the amount of
3 payment or reimbursement for services or procedures covered by the
4 contract is the same as the methodology used to compute the amount
5 of payment or reimbursement when the services or procedures are
6 provided by a physician.

7 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
8 to a preferred provider contract entered into or renewed on or after
9 January 1, 2014. A contract entered into or renewed before January
10 1, 2014, is governed by the law applicable to the contract
11 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
12 continued in effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.