

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.B. No. 1667

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the designation of certain physicians as preferred
3 providers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 1301.051(e), Insurance Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (e) An insurer may not withhold a designation to:
8 (1) a podiatrist described by Section 1301.0521; or
9 (2) a physician described by Section 1301.0522.

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 1301, Insurance Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 1301.0522 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 1301.0522. DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN PHYSICIANS AS
13 PREFERRED PROVIDERS. (a) Notwithstanding Section 1301.051, an
14 insurer may not withhold the designation of preferred provider to a
15 physician who:

16 (1) joins the professional practice of a contracted
17 preferred provider;

18 (2) applies to the insurer for designation as a
19 preferred provider; and

20 (3) complies with the terms and conditions of
21 eligibility to be a preferred provider.

22 (b) A physician designated as a preferred provider under
23 this section must comply with the terms of the preferred provider
24 contract used by the insurer or the insurer's network provider.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1301.0522, Insurance Code, as added by
2 this Act, applies only to an application for a designation as a
3 preferred provider submitted to an insurer on or after the
4 effective date of this Act. An application submitted before that
5 date is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the
6 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for
7 that purpose.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.