

By: Dean

H.B. No. 3211

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the participation of optometrists and therapeutic optometrists in managed care plans providing vision benefits.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 1451, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1451.1545 to read as follows:

Sec. 1451.1545. PARTICIPATION IN VISION CARE PLAN; EFFECT ON OTHER PLANS. (a) In this section, "vision care plan" has the meaning assigned by Section 1451.157(a).

(b) A vision care plan issuer must include on the issuer's Internet website a method for a licensed optometrist or therapeutic optometrist to submit an application for inclusion as a participating provider in the plan. The application:

(1) may only require an applicant to provide:

(A) standardized information prescribed by rules adopted under Section 1452.052 that is applicable to an optometrist or therapeutic optometrist; or

(B) information available from the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare; and

(2) must impose the same requirements on each optometrist and therapeutic optometrist.

(c) A vision care plan issuer shall:

(1) not later than the fifth day after the date the issuer receives an application described by Subsection (b) that

1 meets the plan's credentialing requirements, electronically
2 deliver to the applicant a participating provider contract,
3 including applicable reimbursement fee schedules, provider
4 handbooks, and provider manuals; and

5 (2) not later than the 20th business day after the date
6 the applicant accepts the contract, include the applicant as a
7 participating provider in the plan.

8 (d) A vision care plan issuer must allow an optometrist or
9 therapeutic optometrist to be a participating provider to the full
10 extent of the optometrist's or therapeutic optometrist's license on
11 all of the issuer's:

12 (1) vision care plans and other managed care plans
13 with vision benefits that have enrollees located in this state; and

14 (2) vision panels, as defined by Section 1451.154.

15 SECTION 2. Section 1451.157(a)(2), Insurance Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (2) "Vision care plan" means a managed care plan that:

18 (A) is offered in the form of a limited-scope
19 policy, agreement, contract, or evidence of coverage; and

20 (B) [that] provides coverage for eye care
21 expenses but does not provide comprehensive medical coverage.

22 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
23 a contract between a vision care plan issuer and an optometrist or
24 therapeutic optometrist entered into or renewed on or after the
25 effective date of this Act.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.