

COMMERCE

FILED JAN 11 '01

SENATE FILE 28

BY MADDOX

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the provision under a group health insurance
2 policy or health maintenance organization contract for
3 compensation of podiatrists.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 509.3, Code 2001, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. A provision shall be made available to
4 policyholders, under group policies covering hospital,
5 medical, or surgical expenses for payment of necessary medical
6 or surgical care and treatment, as well as drug prescriptions,
7 provided by a person licensed to practice podiatry under
8 chapter 149, if the care and treatment are provided within the
9 scope of the person's license and if the policy would pay for
10 the care and treatment if the care and treatment were provided
11 by a person engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery as
12 licensed under chapter 148 or 150A. The policy shall provide
13 that the policyholder may reject the coverage or provision if
14 the coverage or provision for similar services which may be
15 provided by a podiatric physician is rejected for all
16 providers of services as licensed under chapter 148, 149, or
17 150A. This subsection applies to group policies delivered or
18 issued for delivery on or after July 1, 2001, and to existing
19 group policies on their next anniversary or renewal date, or
20 upon expiration of the applicable collective bargaining
21 contract, if any, whichever is later. This subsection does
22 not apply to blanket, short-term travel, accident only,
23 limited or specified disease, or individual or group
24 conversion policies, or policies designed only for issuance to
25 persons for coverage under Title XVIII of the federal Social
26 Security Act, or any other similar coverage under a state or
27 federal government plan.

28 Sec. 2. Section 514B.1, subsection 5, Code 2001, is
29 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

30 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. The health care services available to
31 enrollees under prepaid group plans covering hospital,
32 medical, or surgical expenses shall include a provision for
33 payment of necessary medical or surgical care and treatment as
34 well as drug prescriptions provided by a person licensed to
35 practice podiatry under chapter 149, if performed within the

1 scope of the person's license and the plan would pay for the
2 care and treatment when the care and treatment were provided
3 by a person engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery as
4 licensed under chapter 148 or 150A. The plan shall provide
5 that the plan enrollees may reject the coverage for services
6 which may be provided by a podiatric physician if the coverage
7 is rejected for all providers of similar services as licensed
8 under chapter 148, 149, or 150A. This paragraph applies to
9 services provided under plans made on or after July 1, 2001,
10 and to existing group plans on their next anniversary or
11 renewal date, or upon the expiration of the applicable
12 collective bargaining contract, if any, whichever is the
13 later. This paragraph does not apply to enrollees eligible
14 for coverage under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security
15 Act or any other similar coverage under a state or federal
16 government plan.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill establishes provisions under group insurance
19 policies and health maintenance organization contracts to
20 require that if the policy or available health care services
21 currently cover or include care and treatment, as well as drug
22 prescriptions, if provided by a person licensed to practice
23 medicine and surgery under Code chapter 148 or a person
24 licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery under
25 Code chapter 150A, the plan or health care services available
26 shall also allow for provision of the care and treatment, as
27 well as drug prescriptions, by a podiatrist. The bill also
28 requires that the care or treatment be within the scope of
29 practice of the podiatrist. The requirement applies to
30 policies delivered and issued and services provided under
31 plans on or after July 1, 2001, and to existing plans on the
32 latter of the anniversary, renewal, or expiration of a
33 collective bargaining contract.