

1 HB323
2 118560-3
3 By Representatives McClendon, Clouse, Barton, Millican, Ward
4 and Hill
5 RFD: Health
6 First Read: 19-JAN-10

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ENROLLED, An Act,

To amend Section 27-56-4 of the Code of Alabama 1975, the Access to Eye Care Act, relating to health insurance policies, plans, or contracts which provide third-party payments for eye care services, to further regulate certain conditions related to participation in the health insurance plans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 27-56-4 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§27-56-4.

"An insurance policy, plan, or contract providing for third-party payment or prepayment of health or medical expenses shall not do any of the following:

"(1) Impose a practice restriction for optometrists which is inconsistent with or more restrictive than provided by law.

"(2) Discriminate between classes of eye care providers with respect to any covered service which falls within the scope of the eye care provider's license.

"(3) Require an eye care provider to hold hospital privileges as a condition of participation in or receiving payment from the policy, plan, or contract.

1 "(4) Impose any restriction not required by law
2 based on the eye care provider's professional degree.

3 "(5) Discriminate between eye care providers in
4 connection with the amount of reimbursement for the provision
5 of the same services.

6 "(6) Require an eye care provider to purchase or
7 maintain a minimum quantity or minimum dollar amount of a
8 specified brand of ophthalmic materials as a condition of
9 participation in or receiving payments from a policy, plan, or
10 contract."

11 Section 2. This act shall not apply to any insurance
12 policy, plan, or contract in effect on the effective date of
13 this act.

14 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
15 first day of the third month following its passage and
16 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 11-MAR-10, as amended.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

08-APR-10

Passed