1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)
3	SENATE BILL 548 By: Montgomery
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6	AS INTRODUCED
7	An Act relating to prepaid vision plans; creating the
8	Prepaid Vision Plan Act; providing short title; defining terms; requiring certificate of authority
9	for certain plan providers be obtained by certain date; establishing application procedures; requiring
10	certain accompaniments with application; establishing provisions for approval of application; establishing
11	expiration date of certificate of authority; establishing provisions for renewal of certificate of
12	authority; requiring certain prepaid vision plan organizations respond to Insurance Commissioner by
13	certain date; requiring certain plan organizations to maintain certain tangible net equity; requiring plan
14	organizations with certain expenses to maintain certain tangible net equity or deposit; establishing
15	provisions for exemption to certain deposit
16	requirements; requiring certain plan organizations to maintain certain financial reserve; establishing
17	provisions for membership coverage policies; requiring approval by Commissioner of certain policy;
	requiring certain report be submitted to Commissioner by certain date in certain manner; establishing
18	components of report; requiring certain tax be paid to the State Treasurer; allowing for offset of
19	certain tax with state corporate income tax; providing for suspension or revocation of certain
20	certificate of authority subject to certain conditions; requiring certain restrictions be imposed
21	on certain suspensions and revocations; providing for certain fine to be imposed; providing for hearing for
22	certain plan organizations; establishing requirements for certain advertising and sales material; requiring
23	submission of material to Commissioner; establishing
24	approval requirements; prohibiting disapproved materials from certain use; providing certain
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1 exceptions; requiring certain statutory obligations apply to plan organizations; allowing Commissioner to 2 conduct certain examinations; directing promulgation of rules; providing for codification; and providing 3 an effective date. 4 5 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 7 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6104 of Title 36, unless there 9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Prepaid Vision 11 Plan Act". 12 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6105 of Title 36, unless there 14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 15 As used in this act: 16 "Covered expense" means costs incurred by a provider who has 1. 17 agreed in writing not to bill members, except for permissible 18 supplemental charges; 19 "Member" means an individual who is enrolled in an 2. 20 individual or group prepaid vision plan as a principal subscriber 21 and any dependents entitled to vision care services under the plan 22 solely because of their status as a dependent of the principal 23 subscriber; 24

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¹ 3. "Membership coverage" means any certificate or contract ² issued to a member specifying the vision coverage to which the ³ member is entitled;

4 4. "Net equity" means the excess of total assets over total
5 liabilities, excluding liabilities which have been subordinated in a
6 manner acceptable to the Insurance Commissioner;

7 5. "Prepaid vision plan" means any contractual agreement 8 whereby any prepaid vision plan organization undertakes to provide 9 payment of vision services directly, to arrange for prepaid vision 10 services, or to pay or make reimbursement for any vision service not 11 provided for by other insurance;

6. "Prepaid vision plan organization" means any person who, or organization or entity that, undertakes to conduct one or more prepaid vision plans providing only vision services;

¹⁵ 7. "Prepaid vision services" means services included in the ¹⁶ practice of optometry in all of its branches as defined pursuant to ¹⁷ Section 581 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18 8. "Provider" means any person licensed or otherwise authorized 19 to furnish prepaid vision services in this state other than an 20 authorized insurer;

9. "Tangible net equity" means net equity reduced by the value assigned to intangible assets including, but not limited to, goodwill, going concern value, organizational expenses, start-up costs, long-term prepayments of deferred charges, nonreturnable

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1 deposits, and obligations of officers, directors, owners, or 2 affiliates, except short-term obligations of affiliates for goods or 3 services arising in the normal course of business that are payable 4 on the same term as equivalent transactions with nonaffiliates and 5 that are not past due; and

6 "Uncovered expense" means the cost of health care services 10. 7 that are the obligation of a prepaid vision plan organization for 8 which:

9 a member may be liable in the event of the insolvency a. 10 of the organization, and

alternative arrangements acceptable to the b. 12 Commissioner have not been made to cover the costs. 13 A new section of law to be codified SECTION 3. NEW LAW 14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6106 of Title 36, unless there 15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 Α. No person, organization, or entity, unless authorized 17 pursuant to an approved application under Section 5 of this act 18 shall establish or operate a prepaid vision plan organization in 19 this state or sell, offer to sell, solicit offers to purchase, or 20 receive advance or periodic consideration in conjunction with a 21 prepaid vision plan without obtaining and maintaining a certificate 22 of authority.

23 On or before February 1, 2024, every prepaid vision plan Β. 24 organization operating in this state shall submit an application for _ _

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¹ a certificate of authority to the Insurance Commissioner. Each ² applicant may continue to operate as an organization until the ³ Commissioner acts upon the application.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6107 of Title 36, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. An application for a certificate of authority to operate as
a prepaid vision plan organization shall be filed with the Insurance
Commissioner in the form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner.
The application shall be verified by an officer or authorized
representative of the applicant and shall set forth or be
accompanied by:

13 1. A copy of any basic organizational document of the applicant 14 such as the articles of incorporation, articles of association, 15 partnership agreement, trust agreement, or other applicable 16 documents, with all amendments to the documents;

17 2. A copy of any bylaws, rules, regulations, or similar 18 documents regulating the conduct of the internal affairs of the 19 applicant;

3. A list of the names, addresses, and official positions of the persons who are responsible for the conduct of the business affairs of the applicant, including all members of the board of directors, board of trustees, executive committee, or other governing board or committee, and the principal officers, in the

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1 case of a corporation, or the partners or members in the case of a
2 partnership or association;

³ 4. A copy of any contract made or to be made between any ⁴ providers of vision services or persons listed in paragraph 3 of ⁵ this subsection and the applicant;

5. A statement generally describing the prepaid vision plan
organization, the facilities, personnel of the organization, and all
prepaid vision plans offered by the organization;

9 6. A copy of the form of individual or group membership
10 coverage or a copy of the contract to be issued to the members;

Financial statements showing assets, liabilities, and sources of financial support of the applicant. If the financial affairs of the applicant are audited by independent certified public accountants, a copy of the most recent regular certified financial statement for the applicant shall satisfy the requirement of this paragraph, unless the Commissioner determines that additional or more recent financial information is required;

8. A description of the proposed method of marketing the prepaid vision plan, a financial prospectus which includes a threeyear projection of the initial operating results anticipated, and a statement as to the sources of working capital available for the operation of the prepaid vision plan and any other source of funding;

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9. A power of attorney, duly executed by the applicant if not
domiciled in this state, appointing the Commissioner as the true and
lawful representative for service of process for the applicant in
this state upon whom all lawful process in any legal action or
proceeding against the prepaid vision plan organization on a cause
of action arising in this state may be served;

7 10. A fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for issuance of a 8 certificate of authority; and

9 11. Any other information as the Commissioner may require.
10 B. Within ten (10) days following any modification for
11 information previously furnished as required by subsection A of this
12 section, a prepaid vision plan organization shall file a notice of
13 the modification with the Commissioner.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6108 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Issuance of a certificate of authority for a prepaid vision
 plan organization shall be granted by the Insurance Commissioner if
 the Commissioner is satisfied that the following conditions are met:

20 1. The persons, organization, or entity responsible for 21 conducting the business affairs of the prepaid vision plan 22 organization are competent, trustworthy, and are professionally 23 capable of providing or arranging for the provision of services 24 offered;

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2. The prepaid vision plan organization constitutes an
 appropriate mechanism to achieve an effective prepaid vision plan;

3 3. Each officer responsible for conducting the business affairs
4 of the prepaid vision plan organization has filed with the
5 Commissioner a fidelity bond in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars
6 (\$50,000.00); provided, the bond is subject to the approval of the
7 Commissioner;

8 4. The financial structure of the prepaid vision plan
 9 organization may reasonably be expected to meet obligations for
 10 payment of services for members and prospective members. In making
 11 this determination, the Commissioner may consider:

12 the financial soundness of the arrangements made a. 13 pursuant to the provisions of the prepaid vision plan 14 for services and the schedule of charges used, 15 any agreement with an insurer, hospital, medical b. 16 service corporation, or any other organization for 17 ensuring the payment or prepaid vision services, 18 provisions in the plan for automatic coverage of с. 19 vision service if the prepaid plan is discontinued, 20 and

21 d. the sufficiency of the agreement for prepaid vision 22 services with providers of vision services; and 23 5. The Commissioner has not made a determination that the 24 prepaid vision plan organization is not competent, trustworthy, or

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¹ financially responsible, and the organization has not had any ² insurance license denied for cause by any state.

B. 1. A certificate of authority shall expire at midnight on June 30 following the date of issuance or last renewal date. If the prepaid vision plan organization remains in compliance with the provisions of this act and pays a renewal fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), the certificate of authority may be renewed.

8 2. Renewal fees paid to the Commissioner pursuant to paragraph
 9 1 of this subsection shall be deposited into the State Insurance
 10 Commissioner Revolving Fund.

C. Every prepaid vision plan organization, upon receipt of any inquiry from the Insurance Commissioner, shall furnish the Commissioner with an adequate response to the inquiry within twenty (20) days from the receipt of inquiry.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6109 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. Except as approved in accordance with subsection C of
 this section, each prepaid vision plan organization shall at all
 times have and maintain tangible net equity equal to the greater of:

a. Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or

b. two percent (2%) of the organization's annual gross premium income, up to a maximum of the required

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capital and surplus of an accident and health insurance policy.

2. A prepaid vision plan organization that has uncovered expenses in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), as reported on the most recent annual financial statement filed with the Insurance Commissioner, shall maintain tangible net equity equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the uncovered expense in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in addition to the tangible net equity required by paragraph 1 of this subsection.

10 Each prepaid vision plan organization shall deposit with В. 1. 11 the Commissioner cash, securities, other measures deemed acceptable 12 by the Commissioner, or any combination thereof in an amount equal 13 to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) plus twenty-five 14 percent (25%) of the tangible net equity required in subsection A of 15 this section; provided, however, that the deposit shall not be 16 required to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

17 2. The deposit shall be an admitted asset of the prepaid vision
 18 plan organization in the determination of tangible net equity.

19 3. All income from deposits shall be an asset of the prepaid 20 vision organization. A prepaid vision plan organization may 21 withdraw a deposit or any part thereof after making a substitute 22 deposit of an equal amount and value. Any securities shall be 23 approved by the Commissioner before being substituted.

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1 4. The deposit shall be used to protect the interests of the 2 prepaid vision plan organization's members and to assure 3 continuation of vision plan services to members of a prepaid vision 4 plan organization that is in rehabilitation or conservation. If a 5 prepaid vision plan organization is placed in receivership or 6 liquidation, the deposit shall be an asset subject to the provisions 7 of the Rehabilitation and Liquidation Act pursuant to Section 1901 8 et seq. of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

9 5. The Commissioner may reduce or eliminate the deposit 10 requirement if the prepaid vision plan organization has made an 11 acceptable deposit with the state or jurisdiction of domicile for 12 the protection of members, wherever located, and delivers to the 13 Commissioner a certificate to that effect, duly authenticated by the 14 appropriate state official holding the deposit.

¹⁵ C. Upon application by a prepaid vision plan organization, the ¹⁶ Commissioner may waive some or all of the requirements of subsection ¹⁷ A of this section for any period of time the Commissioner deems ¹⁸ proper upon a filing that either:

19 1. The prepaid vision plan organization has a net equity of at 20 least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00); or

21 2. An entity having a net equity of at least Five Million 22 Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) furnishes to the Commissioner a written 23 commitment, acceptable to the Commissioner, to provide for the

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¹ uncovered expenses of the prepaid limited health service ² organization.

³ SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified ⁴ in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6110 of Title 36, unless there ⁵ is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A prepaid vision plan organization shall maintain for the
protection of members a financial reserve consisting of at least two
percent (2%) of all prepaid charges collected from members of the
prepaid vision plan until the reserve totals Five Hundred Thousand
Dollars (\$500,000.00). This reserve shall be in addition to the
deposit prescribed by Section 6 of this act.

B. The reserve prescribed by this section shall not apply with
 respect to a prepaid vision plan organization which is funded by the
 federal government, state, or any political subdivision thereof.
 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

¹⁶ in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6111 of Title 36, unless there
¹⁷ is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Every member of a prepaid vision plan shall be issued a membership coverage policy by the prepaid vision plan organization. No policy for membership coverage or amendment to the policy shall be issued or delivered to any person in this state until a copy of the policy for membership coverage or amendment to the policy has been filed with and approved by the Insurance Commissioner.

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B. A policy for membership coverage shall contain a statement of:

³ 1. The prepaid vision services or other benefits to which the ⁴ member is entitled under the prepaid vision plan;

5 2. Any limitations of the services or benefits to which the
6 member is entitled under the prepaid vision plan;

7 3. Information as to how services may be obtained; and
8 4. The obligation of the member for charges for the prepaid
9 vision plan.

10 C. Any member of a prepaid vision plan shall be free to select 11 any licensed vision practitioner to provide vision services and 12 prepayment or reimbursement determinations shall be made without 13 regard to whether the practitioner is a participating or 14 nonparticipating member of the plan. The provisions of this 15 subsection shall be printed on the policy for membership coverage.

D. Membership coverage shall contain no provisions or
 statements which are unjust, unfair, untrue, inequitable,
 misleading, deceptive, or which encourage misrepresentation as
 determined by the Commissioner.

E. The Commissioner shall approve any policy of membership
 coverage if the requirements of this section are complied with and
 the prepaid vision plan, in the judgment of the Commissioner, is
 able to meet its financial obligations for the membership coverage.
 It shall be unlawful for a prepaid vision plan organization to issue

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1 a policy until it is approved by the Commissioner. If the 2 Commissioner does not disapprove any policy within thirty (30) days 3 after filing, the policy shall be deemed approved. If the 4 Commissioner disapproves a policy of membership coverage, the 5 Commissioner shall notify the prepaid vision plan organization, 6 specifying the reasons for disapproval. The Commissioner shall 7 grant a hearing on any disapproval within thirty (30) days after a 8 request in writing for a hearing is received by the Commissioner 9 from the prepaid vision plan organization.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6112 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. On or before March 1 of each calendar year, every prepaid vision plan organization offering coverage in this state shall file with the Insurance Commissioner a report of the business activities of the organization for the preceding calendar year. The report shall be signed by at least two principal officers of the corporation and the signatures shall be notarized.

B. A report submitted under this section shall be in the form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner and shall include:

21 1. A financial statement of the organization, including a copy 22 of the balance sheet, receipts, and disbursements of the 23 organization for the subject year certified by an independent 24 certified public accountant. The Commissioner may accept a full

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¹ report of the most recent examination of a foreign prepaid vision
² plan, certified to by the appropriate examining official of another
³ state;

Any material changes in the information required to be
provided pursuant to Section 4 of this act;

6 3. The number of persons who have become members during the 7 preceding year, the total number of members of the plan as of the 8 end of the year, and the number of memberships terminated during the 9 year;

10 4. The costs of all care provided and the number of members who 11 received care pursuant to the provisions of the prepaid vision plan; 12 and

13 5. Any other information relating to the performance of the 14 prepaid vision plan organization deemed necessary by the 15 Commissioner.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6113 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. At the time of filing the annual report prescribed by 20 Section 9 of this act, each prepaid vision plan shall pay to the 21 State Treasurer through the Insurance Commissioner a tax for 22 transacting a prepaid vision plan. The obligation shall be two 23 percent (2%) of prepaid net charges received from members in this 24 state for both domestic and foreign organizations.

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1 An organization may offset this tax in whole or in part by в. 2 payment of state corporate income tax as provided pursuant to 3 Section 2355 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. However, an 4 organization is prohibited from carrying over to a succeeding year 5 any credit for paying corporate income tax not used during a year. 6 A new section of law to be codified SECTION 11. NEW LAW 7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6114 of Title 36, unless there 8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 9 The Insurance Commissioner may suspend or revoke any Α. 10 certificate of authority issued pursuant to this act if the 11 Commissioner finds that the prepaid vision plan organization: 12 Is operating contrary to the basic organizational documents 1. 13 of the organization or in a manner contrary to that described in or 14 reasonably inferred from any information submitted pursuant to 15 Section 4 of this act: 16 2. Issues membership coverage which does not comply with the 17 requirements of Section 8 of this act; 18 3. Does not provide or arrange for basic vision services 19 appropriate to a prepaid vision plan; 20 4. Can no longer be expected to meet the obligations to members 21 or prospective members of the prepaid vision plan; 22 5. Uses fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or 23 demonstrates incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial 24 irresponsibility in the conduct of business; _ _

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6. Fails to deal equitably with any providers or other persons or facilities which offer services covered within a contract or policy issued pursuant to this act; or

Fails to substantially comply with the insurance laws of
 this state or violates any regulation, rule, subpoena, or order of
 the Commissioner.

B. When the certificate of authority of a prepaid vision plan organization is suspended, the organization shall not accept, during the period of such suspension, any additional members except newly acquired dependents of existing members and shall not engage in any advertising or solicitation.

12 С. When the certificate of authority of a prepaid vision plan 13 organization is revoked, the organization shall terminate operation 14 of the organization in this state immediately and shall conduct no 15 further business except as may be essential to the orderly 16 conclusion of the business affairs of the organization. The 17 Commissioner, by written order, may permit further operation of the 18 organization as the Commissioner finds to be in the best interest of 19 members of the organization.

D. In addition to or in lieu of any applicable suspension or revocation of a certificate of authority, the Commissioner may invoke a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each violation. The payment of the fine may be enforced in the same manner as civil judgments may be enforced.

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E. A prepaid vision plan organization which has had its
 certificate of authority denied, suspended, or revoked, or has
 suffered an adverse determination by the Commissioner shall be
 entitled to a hearing pursuant to the provisions of the
 Administrative Procedures Act under Section 250 et seq. of Title 75
 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6115 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 Α. No advertising or sales material relating to a prepaid 11 vision plan organization shall be issued or delivered to any person 12 in this state until a copy of the material has been filed with and 13 approved by the Insurance Commissioner. Within thirty (30) days 14 after the submission of advertising or material under this 15 subsection, the Commissioner shall issue a determination approving 16 or disapproving of the material. Disapproval of the advertising or 17 material shall be on the basis that, in whole or in part, the 18 material is false, deceptive, or misleading. Written notification 19 shall be issued to an organization that has materials disapproved 20 pursuant to this subsection. Thereafter, the disapproved 21 advertising material shall not be used. Violation of the provisions 22 of this subsection shall entitle the Commissioner in his or her 23 discretion and without additional cause to withdraw approval of any

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1 membership coverage with respect to which advertising or sales 2 material is used.

3 Β. Offers to sell prepaid vision insurance by advertising or 4 publication of material by a prepaid vision plan organization or 5 anyone acting on behalf of the organization to inform members or 6 prospective members of the plan as to the coverage offered by the 7 plan and the operation of the organization shall not be a violation 8 of any provisions of law relating to solicitation of customers or 9 advertising by prepaid vision plan providers if the advertising or 10 sales material:

11 Is approved prior to use by the Commissioner upon 1. 12 determination by the Commissioner that the material is not 13 inaccurate, false, deceptive, or misleading;

14 2. Does not identify the providers of vision services nor 15 describe their professional qualifications, except upon request of 16 the member or prospective member;

17 Does not describe the professional experience or attainments 3. 18 of providers of vision services individually or as a group, or 19 contain language that states, evaluates, or lauds the professional 20 competence, skills, or reputations of the providers; and

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Shall not cause any providers of vision services to violate 4. 22 any professional ethics or laws that prohibit the solicitation of 23 patients.

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SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6116 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Article 12 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes relating to
unfair trade practices and frauds shall apply to prepaid vision plan
organizations, except to the extent the Insurance Commissioner may
determine that particular provisions of the article shall not apply
to prepaid vision plan organizations.

B. The Commissioner may conduct an examination of the business
 affairs of any prepaid vision plan organization as often as the
 Commissioner deems necessary for the protection of the interests of
 the people of this state.

C. Any rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of a prepaid vision plan organization shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions for the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of an insurer provided for by Articles 18 and 19 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. The Commissioner shall promulgate any rules necessary to
 effectuate the provisions of the Prepaid Vision Plan Act.

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 SECTION 14. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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