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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- OPTOMETRISTS

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Tassoni, Picard, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 5-35.1 of the General Laws entitled "Optometrists" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **5-35.1-11.1. Subcontracted optometry network.** -- [An insurer, including a company](#)  
4 [offering accident and sickness insurance as defined in chapter 27-18, a nonprofit hospital service](#)  
5 [corporation as defined in chapter 27-19, a nonprofit medical service corporation as defined in](#)  
6 [chapter 27-20, or a health maintenance organization as defined in chapter 27-41, shall not require](#)  
7 [that an optometrist participate in a subsidiary's or a third-party's vision care plan as a condition](#)  
8 [for participation in the insurer's participating provider panel.](#)

9           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – OPTOMETRISTS

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1           This act would prohibit insurers from requiring optometrists to participate in a  
2 subsidiary's or third-party vision care plan as a condition for participation in the insurer's  
3 participating provider panel.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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