

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVE CROMER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Provides for review of fees charged for external review

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 22:2444, relative to the funding of an external review of a health
3 insurance issuer; to provide that the issuer pay the cost of the review; to provide for
4 documentation of the costs; to provide for appeal; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 22:2444 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §2444. Funding of external review

8 A. The health insurance issuer against which a request for a standard external
9 review or an expedited external review is filed shall pay the cost of the independent
10 review organization for conducting the external review, and no fee or other charge
11 may be levied upon a covered person for any costs of an external review.

12 B.(1) The amount charged by the independent review organization as the
13 cost to be paid by the health insurance issuer shall be a reasonable amount for the
14 actual review performed. The independent review organization shall provide
15 adequate documentation to the health insurance issuer justifying the amount charged.

16 (2) A health insurance issuer that believes that the amount charged for a
17 review by an independent review organization is not reasonable may appeal those
18 charges to the commissioner. In conducting the appeal, the commissioner shall
19 review the amount charged, make a determination regarding the reasonableness of
20 the amount charged, and, if warranted, may order an appropriate reduction. The

1 commissioner may request additional information from the independent review
2 organization, the health insurance issuer, or other independent review organizations
3 or healthcare providers in making his determination.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 188 Original

2017 Regular Session

Cromer

Abstract: Provides for the funding and appeal, if necessary, of the costs of an external review of a health insurance issuer.

Present law requires that when a covered person requests an external review of his health insurance issuer, the issuer pay the cost to conduct the review.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires that the costs of the external review charged to the issuer must be reasonable and that the independent review organization provide documentation outlining an explanation of costs.

Proposed law provides that when an issuer believes that the cost of the external review are unreasonable, he can appeal to the commissioner of insurance, who may make an adjustment, if appropriate. Proposed law allows the commissioner to request additional information if necessary to assess the reasonableness of the costs.

(Amends R.S. 22:2444)