

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 257

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH

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

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Provides relative to healthcare provider credentialing

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1009(A)(5) and (7) and to enact R.S. 22:1009(B)(5), relative  
3 to healthcare provider credentialing; to specify that licensed dentists are healthcare  
4 providers and dental benefit plans are health insurance issuers for purposes of  
5 credentialing; to prohibit requiring recredentialing for additional practice locations;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 22:1009(A)(5) and (7) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 22:1009(B)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1009. Health care provider credentialing

11 A. As used in this Section, the following words and phrases ~~shall~~ have the  
12 following meanings ascribed for each, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 \* \* \*

14 (5) "Health care provider" or "provider" means a physician licensed to  
15 practice medicine by the Louisiana State Board of Medical ~~Examiners~~ Examiners,  
16 a dentist licensed to practice dentistry by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry, or  
17 other individual health care practitioner licensed, certified, or registered to perform  
18 specified health care services consistent with state law.

19 \* \* \*

1                   (7) "Health insurance issuer" or "issuer" means any insurer who offers health  
2 insurance coverage through a plan, policy, or certificate of insurance subject to state  
3 law that regulates the business of insurance. A "health insurance issuer" or "issuer"  
4 shall also include a health maintenance organization, as defined and licensed  
5 pursuant to Subpart I of Part I of Chapter 2 of this Title, a dental benefit plan,  
6 including an entity defined as a dental service contractor in Subpart G of this Part,  
7 and shall include the Office of Group Benefits programs.

8   \*       \*       \*

9                   B.

10    \*       \*       \*

11                   (5) Once a provider has been credentialed by a health insurance issuer for  
12 any location in the state of Louisiana, that provider shall be considered credentialed  
13 for all locations at which that provider may legally practice medicine or dentistry in  
14 the state, it being necessary only that the credentialed provider give the issuer written  
15 notice of any additional location of practice beyond the primary practice location  
16 and any additional practice location originally noted on the provider's initial  
17 credentialing application form. There shall be no requirement that the provider be  
18 recredentialed for such additional locations. The credentialing for any additional  
19 location shall be effective immediately upon the receipt by the issuer of written  
20 notice from the provider.

21   \*       \*       \*

22                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
23 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
24 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
25 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
26 effective on the day following such approval.

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**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)]

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HB 257 Original

2015 Regular Session

Seabaugh

**Abstract:** Provides with respect to credentialing, the process of assessing and validating the qualifications of healthcare providers applying to be approved by a health insurance issuer to provide healthcare services to the health insurance issuer's enrollees or insureds.

Proposed law changes present law authorizing health insurance issuers to require healthcare providers to be credentialed, as follows:

- (1) Changes the definition of a "health care provider" to specifically include a dentist licensed to practice dentistry by the La. State Board of Dentistry.
- (2) Changes the definition of a "health insurance issuer" to specifically include a dental benefit plan, including an entity defined as a dental service contractor in present law.
- (3) Provides that once a provider has been credentialed by a health insurance issuer for any location in the state, that provider shall be considered credentialed for all locations at which that provider may legally practice medicine or dentistry in this state. States that it is necessary only that the credentialed provider give the issuer written notice of any additional location of practice beyond the primary practice location and any additional practice location originally noted on the provider's initial credentialing application form. Prohibits any requirement that the provider be recertified for such additional locations. Further provides that the credentialing for any additional location shall be effective immediately upon receipt by the issuer of written notice from the provider.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 22:1009(A)(5) and (7); Adds R.S. 22:1009(B)(5))