

2014 -- H 7542 SUBSTITUTE A

LC004399/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Carnevale, San Bento, Lima, Slater, and Keable

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17.13 of the General Laws entitled "Health Care Accessibility  
2 and Quality Assurance Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-17.13-7. Contracts with providers and optometric services.** – (a) No contract  
4 between an eye care provider and a company offering accident and sickness insurance as defined  
5 in chapter 18 of title 27; a nonprofit medical service corporation as defined in chapter 20 of title  
6 27; or a health maintenance organization as defined in chapter 41 of title 27; or a vision plan, may  
7 require that an eye care provider provide services or materials to its subscribers at a fee set by the  
8 insurer or vision plan unless the insurer or vision plan compensates the eye care provider for the  
9 provision of such services or materials to the patient. Reimbursement paid by the insurer or vision  
10 plan for covered services and materials shall not provide nominal reimbursement in order to claim  
11 that services and materials are covered services.

12 (b)(1) "Services" means services and materials for which reimbursement from the vision  
13 plan is provided for by an enrollee's plan contract, or for which a reimbursement would be  
14 available but for the application of the enrollee's contractual limitations of deductibles,  
15 copayments, or coinsurance.

16 (2) "Materials" means and includes, but is not limited to, lenses, devices containing  
17 lenses, prisms, lens treatments and coatings, contact lenses, orthoptics, vision training, and  
18 prosthetic devices to correct, relieve, or treat defects or abnormal conditions of the human eye or

1 [its adnexa.](#)

2 [\(3\) "Eye care provider" means an optometrist, optician, or ophthalmologist.](#)

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

=====  
LC004399/SUB A  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT

\*\*\*

1           This act would provide that no contract between an insurance company or similar entity  
2 and a provider of eye care services would require the provider to provide services to a subscriber  
3 at a price set by the insurer, unless the services were covered under the applicable insurance  
4 agreement.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004399/SUB A  
=====