

SENATE BILL NO. 1154

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Mason)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.10:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; provider credentialing; processing of new provider applications.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 38.2-3407.10:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 38.2-3407.10:1. Processing of new provider applications and reimbursement for services rendered during pendency of a participating provider's credentialing application.

A. As used in this section:

"Carrier" means an entity subject to the insurance laws and regulations of the Commonwealth and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission that contracts or offers to contract to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services or mental health services, including an insurer licensed to sell accident and sickness insurance, a health maintenance organization, a health services plan, or any other entity providing a plan of health insurance, health benefits, health care services, or mental health services.

"Covered person" means a policyholder, subscriber, enrollee, participant, or other individual covered by a health benefit plan.

"Health benefit plan" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement offered by a carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services.

"Mental health professional" has the meaning ascribed thereto in § 54.1-2400.1.

"Mental health services" means benefits with respect to items or services provided by mental health professionals for mental health conditions as defined under the terms of a health benefit plan.

26 "Network" means a group of participating providers who provide health care services under the
27 carrier's health benefit plan that requires or creates incentives for a covered person to use the participating
28 providers.

29 "New provider applicant" means a physician, mental health professional, or other provider who
30 has submitted a completed credentialing application to a carrier.

31 "Other provider" means a person, corporation, facility, or institution licensed by the
32 Commonwealth under Title 32.1 or 54.1 to provide health care or professional health-related services on
33 a fee basis.

34 "Participating mental health professional" means a mental health professional who is managed,
35 under contract with, or employed by a carrier and who has agreed to provide health care services to covered
36 persons with an expectation of receiving payments, other than coinsurance, copayments, or deductibles,
37 directly or indirectly from the carrier.

38 "Participating other provider" means an other provider who is managed, under contract with, or
39 employed by a carrier and who has agreed to provide such health care or professional services to covered
40 persons with an expectation of receiving payments, other than coinsurance, copayments, or deductibles,
41 directly or indirectly from the carrier.

42 "Participating physician" means a physician who is managed, under contract with, or employed by
43 a carrier and who has agreed to provide health care services or mental health services to covered persons
44 with an expectation of receiving payments, other than coinsurance, copayments, or deductibles, directly
45 or indirectly from the carrier.

46 "Participating provider" means a participating physician, participating mental health professional,
47 or participating other provider.

48 "Physician" means a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine holding an active license from
49 the Board of Medicine.

50 B. A carrier that credentials the physicians, mental health professionals, or other providers in its
51 network shall establish reasonable protocols and procedures for processing new provider credentialing
52 applications and reimbursing new provider applicants, ~~within 30 days of being credentialed by the carrier,~~

53 for health care services or mental health services provided to covered persons during the period in which
54 ~~the an approved~~ applicant's completed credentialing application ~~is was~~ pending. At a minimum, the
55 protocols and procedures shall require the following:

56 ~~1. Apply only if the new provider applicant's credentialing application is approved by the carrier;~~

57 ~~2. Permit reimbursement to a new provider applicant for services rendered from the date the new~~
58 ~~provider applicant's completed credentialing application is received for consideration by the carrier;~~

59 ~~3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1 or 4, if the carrier accepts applications through~~
60 ~~an online credentialing system, require the carrier to recognize notification to a new provider applicant~~
61 ~~through the online credentialing system that the provider has submitted and attested to the application as~~
62 ~~notice by the carrier that the application is received. If the carrier does not accept applications through an~~
63 ~~online credentialing system, the carrier shall be required, within 10 days of receiving an application, to~~
64 ~~provide notification to the new provider applicant either by mail or electronic mail, as selected by the~~
65 ~~applicant, that the application was received; If the carrier accepts applications through an online~~
66 ~~credentialing system, the carrier shall notify a new provider applicant through the online credentialing~~
67 ~~system that the provider has submitted and attested to the application as notice by the carrier that the~~
68 ~~application is received. If the carrier does not accept applications through an online credentialing system,~~
69 ~~the carrier shall within 10 days of receiving an application provide notification to the new provider~~
70 ~~applicant either by mail or electronic mail, as selected by the applicant, that the application was received;~~

71 ~~2. Beginning January 1, 2024, a new provider applicant's application is deemed complete within~~
72 ~~30 days of the carrier receiving the application, unless the carrier has provided notice that the application~~
73 ~~is not complete. Notice shall be provided by electronic mail unless the provider applicant has selected~~
74 ~~notification by mail;~~

75 ~~3. The carrier shall approve or deny new provider applicant credentialing applications within 60~~
76 ~~days of receiving a completed application;~~

77 ~~4. Claims submitted according to carrier claims submittal policies for services rendered during the~~
78 ~~period of a pending application shall be adjudicated and paid no later than 40 days after the new provider~~
79 ~~applicant is credentialed and contracted;~~

80 4. ~~Apply~~ 5. The protocols and procedures shall apply only if a contractual relationship exists
81 between the carrier and the new provider applicant or entity for whom the new provider applicant is
82 employed or engaged; and

83 ~~5. Require that any~~ 6. Any reimbursement shall be paid at the in-network rate that the new provider
84 applicant would have received had he been, at the time the covered health care services were provided, a
85 credentialed participating provider in the network for the applicable health benefit plan.

86 C. Nothing in this section shall require reimbursement of the new provider applicant-rendered
87 services that are not benefits or services covered by the carrier's health benefit plan.

88 D. Nothing in this section requires a carrier to pay reimbursement at the contracted in-network rate
89 for any covered health care services or mental health services provided by the new provider applicant if
90 the new provider applicant's credentialing application is not approved or the carrier is otherwise not willing
91 to contract with the new provider applicant.

92 E. Payments made or retroactive denials of payments made under this section shall be governed
93 by § 38.2-3407.15.

94 F. If a payment is made by the carrier to a new provider applicant or any entity that employs or
95 engages such new provider applicant under this section for a covered service, the patient shall only be
96 responsible for any coinsurance, copayments, or deductibles permitted under the insurance contract with
97 the carrier or participating provider agreement with the physician, mental health professional, or other
98 provider. If the new provider applicant is not credentialed by the carrier, the new provider applicant or
99 any entity that employs or engages such physician, mental health professional, or other provider shall not
100 collect any amount from the patient for health care services or mental health services provided from the
101 date the completed credentialing application was submitted to the carrier until the applicant received
102 notification from the carrier that credentialing was denied.

103 G. New provider applicants, in order to submit claims to the carrier pursuant to this section, shall
104 provide written or electronic notice to covered persons in advance of treatment that they have submitted
105 a credentialing application to the carrier of the covered person, stating that the carrier is in the process of
106 obtaining and verifying the following pursuant to credentialing regulations:

107 "Notice of Provider credentialing and re-credentialing.

108 Your health insurance carrier is required to establish and maintain a comprehensive credentialing
109 verification program to ensure that its physicians, mental health professionals, and other providers meet
110 the minimum standards of professional licensure or certification. Written supporting documentation for
111 (i) physicians, (ii) mental health professionals who have completed their residency or fellowship
112 requirements for their specialty area more than 12 months prior to the credentialing decision, or (iii) other
113 providers shall include:

- 114 1. Current valid license and history of licensure or certification;
- 115 2. Status of hospital privileges, if applicable;
- 116 3. Valid U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration certificate, if applicable;
- 117 4. Information from the National Practitioner Data Bank, as available;
- 118 5. Education and training, including postgraduate training, if applicable;
- 119 6. Specialty board certification status, if applicable;
- 120 7. Practice or work history covering at least the past five years; and
- 121 8. Current, adequate malpractice insurance and malpractice history covering at least the past five
122 years.

123 Your health insurance carrier is in the process of obtaining and verifying the above information in
124 order to determine if your physician, mental health professional, or other provider will be credentialed or
125 not."

126 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to coverages issued by a Medicare Advantage
127 plan, but shall apply to health maintenance organizations that issue coverage pursuant to Title XIX of the
128 Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq. (Medicaid).

129 I. The Commission shall have no jurisdiction to adjudicate individual controversies arising out of
130 this section.

131 **2. That the Virginia Department of Health shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions**
132 **of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.**

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