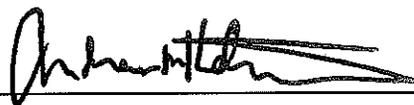


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Chapter No. 341
14/HR40/R509CS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 689

Originated in House  Clerk

HOUSE BILL NO. 689

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROHIBIT THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FROM RESTRICTING A COVERED EMPLOYEE'S ABILITY TO ASSIGN BENEFITS TO A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER; TO PROVIDE THAT IF A COVERED EMPLOYEE PROVIDES THE PLAN BOARD WITH WRITTEN DIRECTIONS THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE PLAN BE PAID TO A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RENDERING SERVICES, THEN THE PLAN SHALL PAY DIRECTLY THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PAYMENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED PAYMENT IN FULL TO THE PROVIDER, WHO MAY NOT BILL OR COLLECT FROM THE COVERED EMPLOYEE ANY AMOUNT ABOVE THAT PAYMENT, OTHER THAN THE DEDUCTIBLE, COINSURANCE, COPAYMENT OR OTHER CHARGES FOR EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES REQUESTED BY THE COVERED EMPLOYEE THAT ARE NONCOVERED BENEFITS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 25-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-15-17. (1) Any benefits payable under the plan may be made either directly to the attending physicians, hospitals, medical groups, or others furnishing the services upon which a claim is based, or to the covered employee, upon presentation of valid bills for such services, subject to subsection (3) of this section and such provisions to facilitate payment as may be made

by the board. All benefits payable under this plan shall be payable directly to the covered employee unless such covered employee shall make a valid assignment * * * in accordance with subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The plan may not, by its terms, limit or restrict the covered employee's ability to assign the covered employee's benefits under the policy to a licensed health care provider that provides health care services to the covered employee. Any such plan provision in violation of this subsection shall be invalid.

(3) If the covered employee provides the board with written direction that all or a portion of any indemnities or benefits provided by the plan be paid to a licensed health care provider rendering hospital, nursing, medical or surgical services, then the plan shall pay directly the licensed health care provider rendering such services. That payment shall be considered payment in full to the provider, who may not bill or collect from the covered employee any amount above that payment, other than the deductible, coinsurance, copayment or other charges for equipment or services requested by the covered employee that are noncovered benefits after the signing of an explanatory document about the noncovered benefit by the covered employee.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2014.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 6, 2014



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED BY THE SENATE
March 5, 2014



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR

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