



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 62

January Session, 2001

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1008

Senate, March 26, 2001

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. PRAGUE of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING DIRECT PAYMENT OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 31-279 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (c) [On or after January 1, 1992, any] (1) Any employer or any
4 insurer acting on behalf of an employer, may establish a plan, subject
5 to the approval of the chairman of the Workers' Compensation
6 Commission under subsection (d) of this section, for the provision of
7 medical care [which] that the employer provides for treatment of any
8 injury or illness under this chapter. Each plan shall contain such
9 information as the chairman shall require, including, but not limited
10 to:

11 [(1)] (A) A listing of all persons who will provide services under the
12 plan, along with appropriate evidence that each person listed has met

13 any licensing, certification or registration requirement necessary for
14 the person to legally provide the service in this state; [(2) a]

15 (B) A listing of all pharmacies that will provide services under the
16 plan, to which the employer, any insurer acting on behalf of the
17 employer, or any other entity acting on behalf of the employer or
18 insurer shall make direct payments for any prescription drug
19 prescribed by a physician participating in the plan;

20 (C) A designation of the times, places and manners in which the
21 services will be provided; [(3) a]

22 (D) A description of how the quality and quantity of medical care
23 will be managed; and [(4) such]

24 (E) Such other provisions as the employer and the employees may
25 agree to, subject to the approval of the chairman.

26 (2) The election by an employee covered by a plan established under
27 this subsection to obtain medical care and treatment from a provider of
28 medical services who is not listed in the plan shall suspend [his] the
29 employee's right to compensation, subject to the order of the
30 commissioner.

31 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 31-294d of the general statutes is
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

33 (a) (1) The employer, as soon as [he] the employer has knowledge of
34 an injury, shall provide a competent physician or surgeon to attend the
35 injured employee and, in addition, shall furnish any medical and
36 surgical aid or hospital and nursing service, including medical
37 rehabilitation services and prescription drugs, as the physician or
38 surgeon deems reasonable or necessary. The employer, any insurer
39 acting on behalf of the employer, or any other entity acting on behalf of
40 the employer or insurer shall be responsible for paying the cost of such
41 prescription drugs directly to the provider.

42 (2) If the injured employee is a local or state police officer, state
43 marshal, judicial marshal, correction officer, emergency medical
44 technician, paramedic, ambulance driver, firefighter, or active member
45 of a volunteer fire company or fire department engaged in volunteer
46 duties, who has been exposed in the line of duty to blood or bodily
47 fluids [which] that may carry blood-borne disease, the medical and
48 surgical aid or hospital and nursing service provided by [his] the
49 employer shall include any relevant diagnostic and prophylactic
50 procedure for and treatment of any blood-borne disease.

51 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002.

LAB JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Indeterminate Savings (General and Special Transportation Funds) and Minimal Cost (Workers' Compensation Administration Fund)

Affected Agencies: Workers' Compensation Commission, Various State Agencies

Municipal Impact: Potential Indeterminate Savings

Explanation

State and Municipal Impact:

This bill would result in potential savings to state and municipalities as employers, that cannot be determined at this time, and in minimal costs to the Workers' Compensation Commission, that can be absorbed within their current appropriations. The bill requires all employers and workers' compensation insurers acting on their behalf to include a listing of all pharmacies that will provide services to injured workers under their workers' compensation preferred provider plan. It requires the employer or the insurer to make payments directly to the pharmacy.

This could result in savings to the employers and insurers by negotiating with pharmacies for lower cost prescriptions in return for their inclusion in the workers' compensation preferred provider plans. The revised plans are subject to review and approval by the Workers' Compensation Commission, which would incur minimal, absorbable

costs.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1008

AN ACT REQUIRING DIRECT PAYMENT OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires employers, their workers' compensation insurers, or any other entity acting on behalf of the employer or insurer to pay pharmacists directly for prescriptions related to employees' work-related injuries.

It specifically requires employers that become aware of an employee's work-related injury to provide whatever prescription drugs a physician or surgeon deems necessary.

The bill requires employers that provide workers' compensation medical benefits through a managed care plan to identify all participating pharmacies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0