



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6310**

January Session, 2011

\*        HB06310INS        031611        \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRACTS WITH OPHTHALMOLOGISTS  
AND OPTOMETRISTS.**

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

1       Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 20-138b of the general statutes is  
2       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3       *October 1, 2011*):

4       (b) If any health care center, as defined in section 38a-175, or  
5       preferred provider network, as defined in section 38a-479aa, offers  
6       health care benefits [which] that provide ophthalmologic care for any  
7       person, partnership, corporation, association or group, however  
8       organized, such health care center or preferred provider network shall  
9       provide optometric care. If the ophthalmologic care provided may be  
10      lawfully rendered by an optometrist, such health care center or  
11      preferred provider network shall provide the identical eye care  
12      coverage and benefits for its members when such care is rendered by  
13      an optometrist under contract with such health care center or preferred  
14      provider network.

15      (1) Such health care center or preferred provider network shall [(1)]  
16      (A) contract with ophthalmologists and optometrists in a manner  
17      [which] that will provide fair and sufficient representation of such  
18      providers in relation to the benefits provided by the health care center  
19      plan or preferred provider network, and [(2)] (B) equally inform its

20 members of the availability of ophthalmologic and optometric services.

21 (2) Such health care center shall provide ophthalmologists and  
22 optometrists equal access to all health plans offered by such health care  
23 center and shall not restrict participation in such plans based on  
24 limitations in services provided by individual ophthalmologists or  
25 optometrists. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as  
26 permitting any ophthalmologist or optometrist to perform or provide  
27 services beyond their scopes of practice permitted in chapters 370 and  
28 380, respectively.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2011	20-138b(b)
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**INS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*