

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to vision insurance; creating s.
 3 501.501, F.S.; prohibiting specified insurers, prepaid
 4 limited health service organizations, and health
 5 maintenance organizations and third-party
 6 administrators thereof from requiring a licensed
 7 ophthalmologist or optometrist to provide vision care
 8 services under specified circumstances or to purchase
 9 certain materials or services; specifying that a
 10 violation of the section constitutes an unfair or
 11 deceptive act or practice subject to specified civil
 12 and administrative action; providing an effective
 13 date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 501.501, Florida Statutes, is created
 18 to read:

19 501.501 Vision insurance plan practices.-

20 (1) An insurer, a prepaid limited health service
 21 organization, or a health maintenance organization or third-
 22 party administrator thereof which is regulated under chapter
 23 627, chapter 636, or chapter 641 may not require an
 24 ophthalmologist licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459
 25 or an optometrist licensed pursuant to chapter 463 to:

26 (a) Provide vision care services as a condition of

27 participating as a provider of any other type of service to an
28 insured.

29 (b) Purchase a material or service used by the
30 ophthalmologist or optometrist for the provision of vision care
31 services from an entity in which the insurer, the prepaid
32 limited health service organization, or the health maintenance
33 organization or its third-party administrator has a direct or
34 indirect ownership or financial interest.

35 (2) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or
36 deceptive act or practice under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair
37 Trade Practices Act, and the violator may be subject to civil
38 and administrative action by an enforcing authority under part
39 II of this chapter.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.