

By Senator Dawson

30-4-01

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to health insurance; creating  
3           ss. 627.6414, 627.65753, F.S., and amending s.  
4           641.31, F.S.; requiring health insurance  
5           policies and health maintenance contracts to  
6           provide for one routine eye examination for  
7           certain children by a licensed ophthalmologist  
8           or licensed optometrist selected by the  
9           patient; providing for medically necessary  
10          followup visits; providing for the cost of the  
11          examination to be covered by the insurer or  
12          health maintenance organization; providing an  
13          effective 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 627.6414, Florida Statutes, is  
18          created to read:

19                   627.6414 Coverage for children's eye examinations.--A  
20          health insurance policy that covers a child under the age of  
21          18 must provide coverage for one routine eye examination by an  
22          ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 458 or by an  
23          optometrist licensed under chapter 463 for a child up to the  
24          age of 8 years old and any medically necessary followup  
25          visits, as determined by the ophthalmologist or optometrist.  
26          The cost of the examination shall be covered by the insurer.  
27          The patient may select the ophthalmologist or optometrist to  
28          provide the examination.

29           Section 2. Section 627.65753, Florida Statutes, is  
30          created to read:

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1           627.65753 Coverage for children's eye  
2 examinations.--Any group, blanket, or franchise health  
3 insurance policy that covers a child under the age of 18 must  
4 provide coverage for one routine eye examination by an  
5 ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 458 or by an  
6 optometrist licensed under chapter 463 for a child up to the  
7 age of 8 years old and any medically necessary followup  
8 visits, as determined by the ophthalmologist or optometrist.  
9 The cost of the examination shall be covered by the insurer.  
10 The patient may select the ophthalmologist or optometrist to  
11 provide the examination.

12           Section 3. Subsection (40) is added to section 641.31,  
13 Florida Statutes, to read:

14           641.31 Health maintenance contracts.--

15           (40) A health maintenance contract that covers a child  
16 under the age of 18 or provides coverage, benefits, or  
17 services for members of the family of a subscriber must  
18 provide coverage for one routine eye examination by an  
19 ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 458 or by an  
20 optometrist licensed under chapter 463 for a child up to the  
21 age of 8 years old and any medically necessary followup  
22 visits, as determined by the ophthalmologist or optometrist.  
23 The cost of the examination shall be covered by the health  
24 maintenance organization. The patient may select the  
25 ophthalmologist or optometrist to provide the examination.

26           Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
27 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires group, blanket, or franchise health insurance policies and health maintenance contracts that cover children under the age of 18 to provide coverage for one routine eye examination for a child up to the age of 8 years old and any medically necessary followup visits. The cost of such examination is covered by the policy or contract. Provides that the patient may select the ophthalmologist or optometrist to perform the examination.