

Act No. 184
Public Acts of 1997
Approved by the Governor
December 30, 1997
Filed with the Secretary of State
December 30, 1997
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 30, 1997

STATE OF MICHIGAN
89TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1997

Introduced by Senators DeGrow and Shugars

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 812

AN ACT to amend 1980 PA 350, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation of nonprofit health care corporations; to provide their rights, powers, and immunities; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state officers relative to the exercise of those rights, powers, and immunities; to prescribe certain conditions for the transaction of business by those corporations in this state; to define the relationship of health care providers to nonprofit health care corporations and to specify their rights, powers, and immunities with respect thereto; to provide for a Michigan caring program; to provide for the regulation and supervision of nonprofit health care corporations by the commissioner of insurance; to prescribe powers and duties of certain other state officers with respect to the regulation and supervision of nonprofit health care corporations; to provide for the imposition of a regulatory fee; to regulate the merger or consolidation of certain corporations; to prescribe an expeditious and effective procedure for the maintenance and conduct of certain administrative appeals relative to provider class plans; to provide for certain administrative hearings relative to rates for health care benefits; to provide for certain causes of action; to prescribe penalties and to provide civil fines for violations of this act; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," by amending section 502 (MCL 550.1502), as amended by 1994 PA 440.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 502. (1) A health care corporation may enter into participating contracts for reimbursement with professional health care providers practicing legally in this state for health care services that the professional health care providers may legally perform. A participating contract may cover all members or may be a separate and individual contract on a per claim basis, as set forth in the provider class plan, if, in entering into a separate and individual contract on a per claim basis, the participating provider certifies to the health care corporation:

(a) That the provider will accept payment from the corporation as payment in full for services rendered for the specified claim for the member indicated.

(b) That the provider will accept payment from the corporation as payment in full for all cases involving the procedure specified, for the duration of the calendar year. As used in this subdivision, provider does not include a person licensed as a dentist under part 166 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16601 to 333.16648.

(c) That the provider will not determine whether to participate on a claim on the basis of the race, color, creed, marital status, sex, national origin, residence, age, handicap, or lawful occupation of the member entitled to health care benefits.

(2) A contract entered into pursuant to subsection (1) shall provide that the private provider-patient relationship shall be maintained to the extent provided for by law. A health care corporation shall continue to offer a reimbursement arrangement to any class of providers with which it has contracted prior to August 27, 1985 and that continues to meet the standards set by the corporation for that class of providers.

(3) A health care corporation shall not restrict the methods of diagnosis or treatment of professional health care providers who treat members. Except as otherwise provided in section 502a, each member of the health care corporation shall at all times have a choice of professional health care providers. This subsection does not apply to limitations in benefits contained in certificates, to the reimbursement provisions of a provider contract or reimbursement arrangement, or to standards set by the corporation for all contracting providers. A health care corporation may refuse to reimburse a health care provider for health care services that are overutilized, including those services rendered, ordered, or prescribed to an extent that is greater than reasonably necessary.

(4) A health care corporation may provide to a member, upon request, a list of providers with whom the corporation contracts, for the purpose of assisting a member in obtaining a type of health care service. However, except as otherwise provided in section 502a, an employee, agent, or officer of the corporation, or an individual on the board of directors of the corporation, shall not make recommendations on behalf of the corporation with respect to the choice of a specific health care provider. Except as otherwise provided in section 502a, an employee, agent, or officer of the corporation, or a person on the board of directors of the corporation who influences or attempts to influence a person in the choice or selection of a specific professional health care provider on behalf of the corporation, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(5) A health care corporation shall provide a symbol of participation, which can be publicly displayed, to providers who participate on all claims for covered health care services rendered to subscribers.

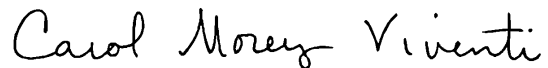
(6) This section does not impede the lawful operation of, or lawful promotion of, a health maintenance organization owned by a health care corporation.

(7) Contracts entered into under this section shall be subject to the provisions of sections 504 to 518.

(8) A health care corporation shall not deny participation to a freestanding medical or surgical outpatient facility on the basis of ownership if the facility meets the reasonable standards set by the health care corporation for similar facilities, is licensed under part 208 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20801 to 333.20821, and complies with part 222 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.22201 to 333.22260.

(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if a certificate provides for benefits for services that are within the scope of practice of optometry, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for a practice of optometric service unless that service was included in the definition of practice of optometry under section 17401 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17401, as of May 20, 1992.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Secretary of the Senate.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved _____

Governor.