

SENATE BILL NO. 192

INTRODUCED BY R. DRISCOLL

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING HEALTH INSURANCE LAWS TO INCLUDE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS; AMENDING SECTION 33-22-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 33-22-111, MCA, is amended to read:

**"33-22-111. Policies and certificates to provide for freedom of choice of practitioners -- professional practice not enlarged.** (1) All policies or certificates of disability insurance, including individual, group, and blanket policies or certificates, must provide that the insured has full freedom of choice in the selection of any licensed physician, physician assistant, dentist, osteopath, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, acupuncturist, naturopathic physician, physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or advanced practice registered nurse as specifically listed in 37-8-202 for treatment of any illness or injury within the scope and limitations of the person's practice. Whenever the policies or certificates insure against the expense of drugs, the insured has full freedom of choice in the selection of any licensed and registered pharmacist.

(2) This section may not be construed as enlarging the scope and limitations of practice of any of the licensed professions enumerated in subsection (1). This section may not be construed as amending, altering, or repealing any statutes relating to the licensing or use of hospitals."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Coverage required for services provided by speech-language pathologist or audiologist.** A health service corporation shall provide, in group and individual insurance contracts or certificates, coverage for health services provided by a speech-language pathologist or audiologist licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 15, if the health care services that speech-language pathologists or audiologists are licensed to perform are covered by the contracts or certificates.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an

1 integral part of Title 33, chapter 30, part 10, and the provisions of Title 33, chapter 30, part 10, apply to [section  
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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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