

SENATE BILL NO. 192

INTRODUCED BY R. DRISCOLL

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING HEALTH INSURANCE LAWS TO ~~INCLUDE~~
5 ~~SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS~~ EXPAND FREEDOM OF CHOICE TO
6 ADDITIONAL PRACTITIONERS; AMENDING SECTION 33-22-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
7 EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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11 **Section 1.** Section 33-22-111, MCA, is amended to read:
12 **"33-22-111. Policies and certificates to provide for freedom of choice of practitioners --**
13 **professional practice not enlarged.** (1) All policies or certificates of disability insurance, including individual,
14 group, and blanket policies or certificates, must provide that the insured has full freedom of choice in the selection
15 of any licensed physician, physician assistant, dentist, osteopath, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist,
16 psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, acupuncturist, naturopathic physician,
17 physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR, or advanced
18 practice registered nurse as specifically listed in 37-8-202 for treatment of any illness or injury within the scope
19 and limitations of the person's practice. Whenever the policies or certificates insure against the expense of drugs,
20 the insured has full freedom of choice in the selection of any licensed and registered pharmacist.
21 (2) This section may not be construed as enlarging the scope and limitations of practice of any of the
22 licensed professions enumerated in subsection (1). This section may not be construed as amending, altering, or
23 repealing any statutes relating to the licensing or use of hospitals."

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25 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Coverage required for services provided by ~~speech-language~~**
26 **~~pathologist or audiologist~~ UNDER FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR AUXILIARY HEALTH SERVICES.** A health service
27 corporation shall provide, in group and individual insurance contracts or certificates, coverage for health services
28 provided by a speech-language pathologist or audiologist licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 15, OR AN
29 ADDICTION COUNSELOR LICENSED UNDER TITLE 37, CHAPTER 35, if the health care services that speech-language
30 pathologists ~~or~~, audiologists, OR ADDICTION COUNSELORS are licensed to perform are covered by the contracts or

1 certificates.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an
4 integral part of Title 33, chapter 30, part 10, and the provisions of Title 33, chapter 30, part 10, apply to [section
5 2].

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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