

The House Committee on Insurance offered the following substitute to HB 1492:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to insurance generally, so as to change certain provisions relating to coverage for equipment and self-management training for individuals with diabetes and enforcement; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to insurance generally, is amended by striking Code Section 33-24-59.2, relating to coverage for equipment and self-management training for individuals with diabetes and enforcement, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"33-24-59.2.

(a) On or after July 1, ~~1998~~ 2002, every individual major medical and group health insurance policy, group health insurance plan or policy, and any other form of managed or capitated care plans or policies shall ~~offer~~ provide coverage for medically necessary equipment, supplies, pharmacologic agents, and outpatient self-management training and education, including medical nutrition therapy, for individuals with insulin-dependent diabetes, insulin-using diabetes, gestational diabetes, and noninsulin-using diabetes ~~as who~~ adhere to the prognosis and treatment regimen prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine pursuant to Title 43.

(b)(1) Diabetes outpatient self-management training and education as provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be provided by a certified, registered, or licensed health care professional with expertise in diabetes.

(2) The office of the Commissioner of Insurance shall promulgate rules and regulations after consultation with the Department of Human Resources which conform to the current

standards for diabetes outpatient self-management training and educational services established by the American Diabetes Association for purposes of this Code section.

(3) The office of the Commissioner of Insurance shall promulgate rules and regulations, relating to standards of diabetes care, to become effective July 1, 2002, after consultation with the Department of Human Resources, the American Diabetes Association, and the National Institutes of Health. Such rules and regulations shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 33-2-9.

(c) The benefits provided in this Code section shall be subject to the same annual deductibles or coinsurance established for all other covered benefits within a given policy.

(d) Private third-party payors may not reduce or eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this Code section.

(e) Enforcement of the provisions of this Code section shall be performed by the Commissioner of Insurance."

SECTION 2.

(a) For purposes of promulgating rules and regulations, this Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

(b) For all other purposes, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2002.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.