

House Bill 189

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Hembree of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to provide that no contract or  
3 agreement between a dental insurer or network and a dentist shall require the dentist to  
4 accept an amount for dental care services that are not covered dental services under a dental  
5 benefit plan; to provide that no dental insurer shall publish or otherwise communicate that  
6 discounts are available for noncovered dental services; to provide that a violation is  
7 punishable as an unfair trade practice; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions;  
8 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Noncovered Dental Services Act."

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

13 Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
14 general provisions regarding insurance, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as  
15 follows:

16 "33-24-59.14.

17 (a) As used in this Code section:

18 (1) 'Covered dental services' means dental care services for which a reimbursement is  
19 actually provided under a covered person's dental benefit plan.

20 (2) 'Covered person' means any subscriber, enrollee, member, beneficiary, or participant,  
21 or his or her dependent, for whom benefits are payable when that covered person receives  
22 dental care services rendered or authorized by a dentist licensed under Chapter 11 of Title  
23 43.

24 (3) 'Dental benefit plan' means any individual or group plan, policy, contract, or  
25 subscription agreement which includes or is for dental care services that is issued,

26 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state whether by a health care insurer,  
27 health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, accident and sickness  
28 insurer, fraternal benefit society, nonprofit hospital service corporation, nonprofit medical  
29 or dental service corporation, health care plan, or any other person, firm, corporation,  
30 joint venture, or other similar business entity that pays for, purchases, or furnishes dental  
31 care services to patients, insureds, beneficiaries, or covered dependents in this state.

32 (4) 'Dental insurer' means any person, firm, corporation, joint venture, or other similar  
33 business entity that offers dental benefit plans in consideration of periodic payments.

34 (b) No contract between a dental insurer and a dentist shall require a dentist to accept an  
35 amount set by the dental insurer as payment for dental care services that are not covered  
36 dental services under the covered person's dental benefit plan.

37 (c) A dental insurer or other person or entity providing third-party administrator services  
38 shall not make available any providers in its dentist network to a plan that sets dental fees  
39 for any services except covered services.

40 (d) A dental insurer shall not make, publish, disseminate, or circulate any document,  
41 communication, or statement, written or oral, which may be viewed by the public,  
42 including but not limited to explanation of benefit forms, that includes language which  
43 directly or indirectly implies that a dentist may or should extend discounts to patients for  
44 noncovered dental services. Statements by a dental insurer which are prohibited by this  
45 Code section include but are not limited to, "Our members value the services you provide  
46 and we encourage you to continue extending the discount on noncovered services."

47 (e) A violation of this Code section shall be punishable as an unfair trade practice under  
48 Article 1 of Chapter 6 of this title."

49 **SECTION 3.**

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