

Senate Bill 455

By: Senators Strickland of the 17th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and Watson of the 1st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 49-4-148 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 recovery of medical assistance from third party liable for sickness, injury, disease, or
3 disability, so as to revise certain provisions to comply with federal law; to bar liable
4 third-party payers from refusing payment solely because a health care item or service did not
5 receive prior authorization; to require a third-party payer to respond to a state inquiry
6 regarding a health care claim within 90 days; to provide for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 49-4-148 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to recovery of
11 medical assistance from third party liable for sickness, injury, disease, or disability, is
12 amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:

13 "(b) All insurers, as defined in Code Section 33-24-57.1, including but not limited to group
14 health plans as defined in Section 607(1) of the federal Employee Retirement Security Act
15 of 1974, managed care entities as defined in Code Section 33-20A-3, which offer health
16 benefit plans, as defined in Code Section 33-24-59.5, pharmacy benefits managers, as
17 defined in Code Section 33-64-1, and any other parties that are, by statute, contract, or

S. B. 455

- 1 -

18 agreement, legally responsible for payment of a claim for a health care item or service shall
 19 comply with this subsection. Such entities set forth in this subsection shall:

20 (1) Cooperate with the department in determining whether a person who is a recipient
 21 of medical assistance may be covered under that entity's health benefit plan and eligible
 22 to receive benefits thereunder for the medical services for which that medical assistance
 23 was provided and respond to any inquiry from the state regarding a claim for payment for
 24 any health care item or service submitted not later than three years after such item or
 25 service was provided;

26 (2) Accept the department's authorization for ~~the provision of medical services~~ a health
 27 care item or service on behalf of a recipient of medical assistance as the ~~entity's~~
 28 third-party payer's authorization for the provision of those services and shall not refuse
 29 to pay for a health care item or service solely on the basis that the third-party payer did
 30 not previously authorize such item or service;

31 (3) Respond to a department inquiry regarding the status of a claim for payment for any
 32 health care item or service within 60 days of receiving the inquiry;

33 ~~(3)~~(4) Comply with the requirements of Code Section 33-24-59.5, regarding the timely
 34 payment of claims submitted by the department for medical services provided to a
 35 recipient of medical assistance and covered by the health benefit plan, subject to the
 36 payment to the department of interest as provided in that Code section for failure to
 37 comply;

38 ~~(4)~~(5) Provide the department, on a quarterly basis, eligibility and claims payment data
 39 regarding applicants for medical assistance or recipients for medical assistance;

40 ~~(5)~~(6) Accept the assignment to the department or a recipient of medical assistance or
 41 any other entity of any rights to any payments for such medical care from a third party;
 42 and

43 ~~(6)~~(7) Agree not to deny a claim submitted by the department solely on the basis of the
44 date of submission of the claim, type or format of the claim, or a failure to present proper
45 documentation at the point-of-sale which is the basis of the claim, if:

46 (A) The claim is submitted to the department within three years from when the item
47 or service was furnished; and

48 (B) Any action by the department to enforce its rights with respect to such claim
49 commenced within six years of the department's submission of the claim.

50 The requirements of paragraphs (2) and ~~(3)~~ (4) of this subsection shall only apply to a
51 health benefit plan which is issued, issued for delivery, delivered, or renewed on or after
52 April 28, 2001."

53 **SECTION 2.**

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