

House Bill 1354

By: Representatives Kelley of the 16th, Hatchett of the 155th, and Newton of the 127th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 20E of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Surprise
2 Billing Consumer Protection Act," so as to require certain health insurers providing a
3 network plan to approve credentialing applications within a certain time frame; to provide
4 for the Department of Insurance to establish a standardized credentialing application; to
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 20E of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Surprise Billing
9 Consumer Protection Act," is amended by adding a new subsection to Code
10 Section 33-20E-24, relating to access to contracted healthcare, assessing coverage,
11 limitations on insurer's authority, and regulation, to read as follows:

12 "(b.1)(1) An insurer providing a network plan shall approve credentialing applications
13 from healthcare providers within 45 days of receipt of any such application if the
14 application is complete and meets the credentialing criteria established by the insurer
15 which shall be based on a standardized credentialing application.

16 (2) The department shall establish a standardized credentialing application for use in
17 credentialing healthcare providers, which shall be based on acceptance of data from or
18 integration with the credentialing verification system used by the state Medicaid program
19 to verify the qualifications, licenses, education, training, and professional history of
20 healthcare providers. All insurers providing a network plan shall be required to utilize
21 such standardized credentialing application to credential healthcare providers."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.