

**Sixty-second Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1386
(Representatives Onstad, Kempenich, Delmore)
(Senators Andrist, Warner)

AN ACT to provide for a legislative management study and a report from the insurance department.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - REPORT FROM INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

1. During the 2011-12 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying whether steps can be taken to improve health care service providers' access to third-party payer reimbursement network systems in order to improve North Dakotans' access to health care services and to contain their health care costs and out-of-pocket expenses. For purposes of this study, health care services include major medical as well as dental and vision services. The study may include consideration of:
 - a. Whether it would improve patients' freedom of choice by allowing all health care service providers the opportunity to be included in network systems and negotiating deeper discounts with third-party payers;
 - b. Whether a third-party payer for health care services should have the ability to deny a health care service provider the right to provide services or to negotiate a contract for services that do not cover the the provider's entire scope of practice;
 - c. Whether current practices in preferred provider arrangements allow third-party payers to interfere with a patient's continuity of care; and
 - d. The positive or negative impact any changes in the current practice may have on:
 - (1) Insurance companies doing business in the state, including managed care companies and health management organizations; and
 - (2) Health insurance premiums.
2. As part of the study, the insurance department may assist the legislative management by gathering information regarding current practices, including whether health care providers are being denied provider contracts by insurance companies and other third-party payers. The department shall make periodic reports to the legislative management on the status of this information gathering.
3. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-third legislative assembly.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1386.

House Vote: Yeas 59 Nays 33 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 30 Nays 14 Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2011.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2011.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2011,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State