

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 354

By: Helton of the Senate

and

Askins, Armes, Kirby and
Deutschendorf of the House

An Act relating to insurance; amending Section 1, Chapter 501, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1374), which relates to vision plans; amending dates; defining providers; requiring certain information; requiring submission of annual election form; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 501, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1374), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1374. For the plan year beginning January 1, ~~2003~~ 2004, and for each year thereafter, it shall be the fiduciary responsibility of the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council and the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board to ensure that participants have the option to choose which vision plan best meets their individual needs by offering every vision plan that notifies the Employees Benefits Council and the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board of their desire to participate no later than ~~August 15~~ July 1 of each year and meets or exceeds the following criteria:

1. Has in place a statewide network of at least one hundred (100) providers. "Providers", for purposes of this section, means Optometrists (OD), Ophthalmologists (MD), and Ophthalmologists (DO) which shall be counted once regardless of the number of locations where they may practice. Optical shops and retail optical locations shall not be listed as providers;

2. Has operated in Oklahoma for at least five (5) years; ~~and~~

3. Is licensed by the Insurance Department, certified by the State Department of Health, or licensed as a third-party administrator by the Insurance Department;

4. Presents accurate product information in a reproducible format not to exceed two pages; and

5. Requires anyone electing a vision plan to submit an annual election form thereby prohibiting default enrollment.

Any administrative fees imposed by the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council or the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall be applied equally to all qualified vision plans. There shall be no additional requirements imposed on a vision plan other than the proper licensing or certification by the appropriate state agency.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 26th day of February, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of April, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives