

CS for SB 1160

THE STATE SENATE
Monday, February 23, 2004

Committee Substitute for
Senate Bill No. 1160

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1160 - By: HELTON of the Senate and FERGUSON of the House.

[insurance - amending Section 1, Chapter 501, O.S.L. 2002, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 113, O.S.L. 2003 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1374) - vision plans - effective date - emergency]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 501, O.S.L. 2002, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 113, O.S.L. 2003 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1374), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1374. For the plan year beginning January 1, ~~2004~~ 2005, 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 July 1 of each year and meets or exceeds the following criteria:

1 1. Has in place a statewide network of at least ~~one hundred~~
2 ~~(100)~~ one hundred fifty (150) providers. "Providers", for purposes
3 of this section, means Optometrists (OD), Ophthalmologists (MD), and
4 Ophthalmologists (DO) which shall be counted once regardless of the
5 number of locations where they may practice. Optical shops and
6 retail optical locations shall not be listed as providers. The
7 company offering the vision plan must have a direct relationship
8 with each provider on its panel, and may not lease, borrow, or
9 otherwise obtain use of a provider panel from another company. This
10 would not prevent a company from offering their plan through one
11 corporate entity and administering the plan or provider panel
12 through another legal entity of the same organization. Providers
13 must be actively engaged in providing the services offered under the
14 vision plan they represent;

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

16 3. Is licensed by the Insurance Department, certified by the
17 State Department of Health, or licensed as a third-party
18 administrator by the Insurance Department. Vision plans must be
19 offered by the company administering the plan, not by an agent or
20 third party;

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

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

3 6. Vision plans must provide an examination, frames and lenses,
4 and/or contact lenses and some form of indemnified payment to the
5 contracted providers for each component of the benefits, i.e., the
6 exam, frames and lenses and/or contact lenses. This does not
7 eliminate discounted supplementary benefits under a qualified plan.

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

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2004.

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

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT & GROUP HEALTH, dated
20 2-17-04 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.