



S.B. 126

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. DiDonato, Hagan, McLin, Shoemaker, Prentiss, Latell

BILL SUMMARY

- Modifies the Health Insuring Corporations Law relative to provider contracting, by doing the following:
 - Requiring health insuring corporations to furnish an application to any provider seeking to enter into a participation contract;
 - Reducing the time period within which a health insuring corporation must notify a provider of the status of the provider's application;
 - Requiring a health insuring corporation to provide a written explanation of any refusal to contract with a provider;
 - Providing that a health insuring corporation's failure to act on a provider's application within 120 days is a refusal to contract with the provider.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Under existing law, if a provider applies to a health insuring corporation (HIC) seeking to enter into a participation contract with the HIC, the HIC must notify the provider of the status of the provider's application within 120 days after receipt of the completed application. The HIC may extend that time period if, due to extenuating circumstances, the HIC needs additional time to consider the application and notifies the provider of the reason for the delay. (Sec. 1753.06.) "Provider" is generally defined as any natural person or partnership of natural persons who are licensed in Ohio to furnish health care services, or any professional association organized under Chapter 1785. of the Revised Code (sec. 1753.01).

The bill requires a HIC to furnish an application form to *any* provider that requests one. It also reduces, from 120 to 90, the number of days within which a HIC must notify a provider of the status of the provider's application.

If a HIC refuses to enter into a participation contract with a provider that has submitted an application, it is required by the bill to provide the applicant with a written notice explaining the reason for the refusal. The notice must be sent by regular mail within five days after the date of the refusal.

Under the bill, a HIC's failure to enter into a participation contract with a provider *within 120 days* after receipt of the provider's completed application is considered a *refusal* to contract with the provider, *unless* the provider is notified of the HIC's need for additional time to consider the application due to extenuating circumstances. (Sec. 1753.06.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
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