

Bill Summary

COMMITTEE: Banking and Insurance

DATE: 10/17/11

PRIME SPONSOR: Pippy

BILL NO: SB939

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PRINTER'S NO: 1017

A. Synopsis:

Senate Bill 939 adds a section to the Unfair Insurance Practices Act to address competitive disparity among vision benefit plans.

B. Summary:

Under this bill, it would be unlawful to:

- Require an insured to obtain ophthalmic services and products from a vision laboratory as a condition of payment for the vision services;
- Impose a copayment upon an insured who is not utilizing an ophthalmic service or product from a vision laboratory;
- Hamper competition by: utilizing access to patient records to market an ophthalmic service from the vision lab or hampering competition based on quality and service;
- Create a preferred class of providers not held to uniform conditions of participation under the same employer's purchased health or vision contract;
- Require the purchase of a minimum quantity or dollar of a specific brand of materials in order to participate as a provider in a vision or other health care plan;
- Require a provider to participate in a vision benefit plan as a condition of participation in a health care plan.