

HB 2218 with HCA 1 -- MEDICAL SERVICES

SPONSOR: Messenger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Health Insurance by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill specifies that certified prosthetists, orthotists, and pedorthists who have completed the education and clinical training requirements established by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics or by the Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC) and have submitted a biennial fee of \$500 to the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts are to be deemed licensed by the board for the purposes of charging for no more than a level four office visit and associated co-payments as set out in insurance policy fee schedules for providing services.

Medical records or documentation prepared by an orthotist, prosthetist, or pedorthist must be considered sufficient for private insurance reimbursement and workers' compensation insurance purposes.

HCA #1: This amendment removes the licensing requirement and associated fees for such license.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that people creating and selling prosthetic devices need to be licensed and board certified to create these devices. Many times it takes several appointments to make sure these devices fit properly and because these devices have been lumped into durable medical goods we can't charge for an office visit.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Messenger and Wayne Lee.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the health care plans like the current process that is in place. Patients go to the doctor and get a prescription for a prosthetic device. Health plans are limited to certain reimbursement rates for these devices and the reimbursement rate is enough to cover all of the costs involved.

Testifying against the bill were Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Kansas City; America's Health Insurance Plans; and Brent Butler, Missouri Insurance Coalition.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that occupational therapists will craft some devices for people's hands to make it easier for people to do certain tasks and we don't want a bill like

this to prohibit us from using the resources available to help our clients.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Occupational Therapy Association.