

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE BILL 876

Short Title: Ins. for Fee-Based Pastors.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dawkins, Lineberry, Wainwright, Foster, N. J. Crawford, Privette, Beard, and Lilley.

Referred to: Judiciary II.

April 18, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCLUDE FEE-BASED PASTORAL COUNSELORS WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHERE DISCRIMINATION IS FORBIDDEN FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 58-50-30 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-50-30. Discrimination forbidden; right to choose services of optometrist, podiatrist, dentist or chiropractor.

Discrimination between individuals of the same class in the amount of premiums or rates charged for any policy of insurance covered by Articles 47 and 49 through 53 of this Chapter, or in the benefits payable thereon, or in any of the terms or conditions of such policy, or in any other manner whatsoever, is prohibited.

Whenever any policy of insurance governed by Articles 1 through 64 of this Chapter provides for payment of or reimbursement for any service which is within the scope of practice of a duly licensed optometrist, or duly licensed podiatrist, or a duly licensed dentist, or duly licensed chiropractor, or duly licensed practicing psychologist, or a duly certified fee-based pastoral counselor or associate, the insured or other persons entitled to benefits under such policy shall be entitled to payment of or reimbursement for such services, whether such services be performed by a duly licensed physician or a duly licensed optometrist, or a duly licensed podiatrist, or a duly licensed dentist or a duly licensed chiropractor, or a duly licensed practicing psychologist, or a duly certified fee-based pastoral counselor or associate, notwithstanding any provision contained in such policy. Whenever any policy of insurance governed by Articles 1 through 64 of this

1 Chapter provides for certification of disability which is within the scope of practice of a
2 duly licensed physician, or a duly licensed optometrist, or a duly licensed podiatrist, or a
3 duly licensed dentist, or a duly licensed chiropractor, or a duly licensed practicing
4 psychologist, or a duly certified fee-based pastoral counselor or associate, the insured or
5 other persons entitled to benefits under such policy shall be entitled to payment of or
6 reimbursement for such disability whether such disability be certified by a duly licensed
7 physician, or a duly licensed optometrist, or a duly licensed podiatrist, or a duly licensed
8 dentist, or a duly licensed chiropractor, or a duly licensed practicing psychologist, or a
9 duly certified fee-based pastoral counselor or associate, notwithstanding any provisions
10 contained in such policy. The policyholder, insured, or beneficiary shall have the right
11 to choose the provider of such services notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in
12 any other statute.

13 For the purposes of this section, a 'duly licensed practicing psychologist' shall be
14 defined to only include a psychologist who is duly licensed or certified in the State of
15 North Carolina and has a doctorate degree in psychology and at least two years clinical
16 experience in a recognized health setting, or has met the standards of the National
17 Register of Health Providers in Psychology."

18 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 1991.