

HOUSE BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

Chairman, Rep. Jerry Metcalf, called the Business & Industry Committee to order on February 11, 1983, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 420 of the Capitol Building, Helena, Montana. All members were present.

HOUSE BILL 633

REP. GENE DONALDSON, District 29, sponsor, opened by saying this bill was requested by the Department of Commerce to establish by rule expiration dates for licenses for barbers, barbershops, professional engineers, land surveyors, nursing home administrators, optometrists, plumbers, and radiologic technicians. Their licenses are now renewable on statutory dates. He proposed an amendment to strike "July 1, 1983" and insert "January 1, 1984" as the effective date of this act.

PROPONENTS:

SHIRLEY MILLER, Bureau Chief, Professional and Occupational Licensing, Dept. of Commerce: This bill will provide a more even distribution of work loads in the department. 65% of all licenses are renewed in January, creating an unmanageable influx of work. No rules will be written without the complete agreement of the boards.

OPPONENTS:

ROLAND PRATT, Executive Director, Montana Optometric Association: Mrs. Miller testified that the department would consult with the boards. We did not find out about this bill until it was produced. Optometrists must have 12 hours of continued education. If the department thinks it alright, we would like to set licensing in April for people who are trying to continue their education and establish their license. We would like to be amended out of this bill or we would like to see this bill killed.

REP. PAVLOVICH: The Board of Plumbers could not be here today and asked that I submit this letter (Exhibit #1) as their testimony against HB 633.

REP. DONALDSON, in closing, said it is his understanding that the boards would all have input into this rule making and they should be satisfied.

QUESTIONS: none

HOUSE BILL 639

REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN, District 96, sponsor, opened by saying this bill would allow the Insurance Commissioner to impose an administrative penalty upon an insurer who fails to pay a claim immediately upon proof of loss. The insurer has 20 days to notify the insured why payment of claim is not made. Interest

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at 18% a year is required on delayed payments. The administrative penalty may not exceed \$1,000 for each violation.

PROPOSERS:

KENNETH RUTLEDGE, Mont. Hospital Association: One of the problems hospitals run into with insurance companies is that the company will say the form is not acceptable. This requires the company to provide the hospital with the proper form. We hope to adopt a uniform bill form soon. There are a lot of additional costs on hospital staff time requesting payment of unpaid accounts. St. James Hospital in Butte has \$836,000 outstanding accounts, 23% are 60 days or older. It is collectively costing the hospitals a large amount of money because of the slow paying of insurance companies. This bill went into effect in Georgia in July 1982 and it has helped cash flow tremendously.

GLENN McFARLANE, Billings Deaconess Hospital: After verifying a patient's insurance company and sending the claim, we wait 30 days and then send a follow-up letter. At 45 days, a phone call is made and at 60 days, we get the patient involved with the insurance company. 90 days is the general policy for all claims to be paid. We don't like to get the patient involved because it creates an adversary relationship. I have handed out examples of letters we have written the companies and the replies we have received back. (Exhibit #2)

WILLIAM LEARY, President, Montana Hospital Association: In 1982, sixty hospitals charged off \$11 million, exclusive of medicare benefits. A significant portion is the balance left after the insurance company finally pays the bill. If all companies would pay in a timely fashion, we could significantly cut down on this bad debt figure. (Exhibit #3)

CHAD SMITH, Lobbyist, Montana Hospital Association: Slow paying insurance companies reduce the working capital of hospitals. There are certain things that cannot be deferred and borrowing money to cover the slow payment by companies cost interest which is an administrative penalty.

OPPONENTS:

REP. KITSELMAN: There are over 400 health insurance providers in Montana. 90% of those companies do business in a timely manner. There are reasons for slow payment on some claims. It could be a questionable claim or there may be excessive charges by the hospital.

ALAN CAIN, Vice President, Blue Shield: This is a bill that will affect companies that are doing a good job and Blue Shield is one of them. Studies show that we paid 88% of the claims submitted to us in 19 days and 99% in 45 days. Eight to ten percent of the \$594,000 we paid last year is going to go over the 20 day limit.

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There are reasons for slow payment. Co-ordination of benefits from families with more than one company covering is a problem. Many group insurance plans don't pay their premiums on time... we wait for it to be paid, then pay the claims. You can count on two or three weeks to get information back from the doctor. We will have to send the insured and the hospital notification at 20 days. It will cost us \$25,000 a year in postage. We may have to hire one or two more people just to send out these forms. I would suggest you address the companies that they have problems with. The insurance commissioner should have the authority to penalize those companies that are not paying promptly.

LOY GRIMES, Farmers Insurance Exchange: This bill does not specify medical insurance. The Insurance Department is policing these companies pretty well.

TOM HARRISON, Blue Cross: Our organization pays half a million dollars in claims a year. We grew to a position where we couldn't handle claims well. We have recently automated with computer payments and we're handling the situation better now. It is absurd to think of supplying every provider with forms - their file cabinets would be bulging. It's true that contacting the patient about late payment creates an adversary relationship. This bill is designed to raise hell and make the patient get on the phone and excite him. It will waste the consumer's time and alot of administrative time. The average claim we pay is \$80. 18% of \$80 is \$14 and for 30 days late it's about \$1.10 - hardly worth the trouble. We don't object to the last provision in the bill. They should hit the companies with a \$1,000 fine if they are habitually late, but don't hit the guys who are doing a good job. I am also representing the Montana Automobile Dealers Assoc. and they oppose this bill.

BOB JAMES, State Farm Insurance: We have a number of different policies where health benefits are paid. We want to know what ones this will affect. We are covered under the Unfair Labor Practices Act. We have no problem with appearing before the Insurance Commissioner's office.

GARY BLEWETT, Administrator, Department of Workmen's Compensation: I would assume Workmen's Compensation is covered under this. We cover all state employees and anyone else who cannot get coverage. We process about 16,000 claims per year. Almost all include medical claims. We are a late payer, certainly far beyond the 20 days even after we have proof of loss. The reason is the rise in the number of claimants and the inability to get on line a computer system for claims. We manage our claims by hand - we have six individuals working them. We have submitted a request for computerization of claims but it's going to take two years. If this act is passed, it will cost considerably more money to Workmen's Compensation.

NORMA SEIFERT, Montana Insurance Department: We are neither an opponent nor proponent of this bill. I can see where it might create a paper blizzard. There are variables in processing claims. We do have the ability in Title 33 to impose penalties. If our department is going to collect the 18%, we may need extra help. We can go with the Unfair Trade Practices Act but we would be willing to implement this bill.

ROLAND PRATT, Purple Cross Insurance: This bill does not state that it relates to health care in the title. We want to know if this relates to all insurance or health care only.

REP. HANSEN, in closing, said it's the consumer who loses in this situation. The big hardship is cash flow for hospitals.

QUESTIONS:

REP. WALLIN: You didn't mention Medicare or Medicaid. Are they a problem? Mr. McFarlane: They pay very promptly.
Rep. Wallin: Would you assess them the same as other carriers?
Mr. McFarlane: Yes.

Rep. Wallin: If a person is self-insured and doesn't pay on time but sets up his own payment plan...Mr. McFarlane: It is my understanding that this bill addresses third party carriers and not individuals.

REP. KADAS: In the Georgia bill, they have 15 days to report as opposed to the 20 working days in this bill. Mr. Rutledge: This was a model after that bill. In Georgia the bill was introduced by the Insurance Commissioner and supported by consumer groups. Rep. Kitselman: Does Georgia have a similar Unfair Trades Practices Act? Mr. Rutledge: I don't know.

REP. FABREGA: How would the proponents and opponents feel about turning 180° on this bill and allow the Commissioner to have a hearing and then perhaps put companies who are habitual offenders on a 20 day basis after that?

Mr. Cain: I think that would be a reasonable way to approach it. I wonder how much the current mechanism has been utilized?

Mr. Smith: We just want to get away from long delays. It would help somewhat to do it the way you said.

HOUSE BILL 595

REP. GARY SPAETH, District 71, sponsor, opened by saying this bill transfers the responsibility for examining the articles of incorporation of a proposed domestic insurer from the Attorney General to the State Commissioner of Insurance.

PROPONENTS

MARGARET JOHNSON, Assistant Attorney General: There are two steps involved with approval by both offices. The office of the Commissioner has the expertise in this field. We ask that you simply remove reference to the Attorney General since the legal review can occur in the Commissioner's office.

OPPONENTS: none

QUESTIONS: none

HOUSE BILL 647

REP. KEN NORDTVEDT, District 77, sponsor, opened by saying this bill would put graduates of a four year engineering technology curriculum on the same basis as graduates of four year engineering programs for purposes of taking the exam for engineer-in-training. Right now a mechanical engineer must work 4 years in the field before he can take the test. The main difference in curriculum is the engineer has more math. Engineer Tech's have more of a practical work experience in it. It doesn't seem fair to put off the engineer tech student if he is willing to take the test. If they pass the test, they can be engineers-in-training and work in the field.

PROPONENTS

MARTIN WESLAN, Bozeman: I am a graduate of Montana Tech 1976. I applied to take the examination. They said I could not take it. I worked with Continental Oil in Oklahoma. They have alot more favorable laws toward registration. If you have a tech degree they will give you a chance at the exam. I feel like the State of Montana let me down. I believe we should have very good registration for engineers because of the complexities. The only way to keep engineers professional is to make the test tougher and weed out those not up to it. If a person knows enough about fundamentals, he should be admitted by the state. The test should be the governing factor.

BILL OLSEN, Montana Contractor's Association: We are a sponsor of a chapter of engineering students at MSU. These engineer techs should be allowed to take the exam.

CODY KARDOKUS, Mechanical Engineering Technology, MSU: Not being able to take the E.I.T. exam as soon as possible hinders people in that many things are forgotten during the 4 year waiting period. A number of students in Mechanical Technology curriculum have been able to pass the E.I.T. in the past. The mechanical engineer technology students at MSU have been granted a charter to join the American Society of Mechanical Engineers which is a professional organization and that in itself should show that we have been recognized by a very esteemed group of engineers.

TERRY JACKSON, Mechanical Engineering Technology, MSU: The law as it stands is unfair and discriminatory. Not allowing technology graduates to take the E.I.T. exam for 4 years causes many good engineers to leave the state for employment.

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OPPONENTS

MAURICE GUAY, Board Professor Engineer and Land Surveyors: Prior to 1975, graduates of Tech were allowed to take the exam as well as anyone who did not have education. We tried to upgrade everything then and they elected the method we are now under. It was upgraded for the protection of the public. Please don't regress. When we were Sunsetting in 1979, they said we had one of the best laws in the United States.

BILL LARSON, Professor of Engineering, MSU: The tech program is not as rigorous as the engineering program. Many students who cannot make the engineering program decide to go with tech. This is an attempt to gain by legislation what a student was not able to or did not want to gain by education.

H. E. HANSON, Montana Technical Council: Anyone who graduates from an engineering program is allowed to take the E.I.T. exam. If the school is not accredited, they cannot.

REP. HANSEN: I would like to go on record as opposing this bill. My son just completed the civil engineering program and I would not like to see the license weakened.

REP. NORDTVEDT, in closing, said the bill states that the Engineering Tech graduates of a four year program would take the same test that the engineering graduates take. If they pass it means they have mastered the fundamentals of engineering to an acceptable level. They will then all need experience and wait four years. The engineering tech student is asking to show that he has mastered these fundamentals.

QUESTIONS:

REP. FABREGA: Is the test too easy that you are afraid the tech students will pass it? Prof. Larson: It's a national test and of students who come through an accredited program, 70% pass it.

REP. FABREGA: What is the rationale for allowing a tech student to take it four years later?

Prof. Larson: They gain additional experience and then usually study in classes designed to help them pass the test.

REP. FABREGA: Wouldn't it be better to take the test after coming out of a four year course? Prof. Larson: The reason for the experience aspect is because they have not had the same rigorous training. We are looking out for the welfare of the public. Tech students do get some engineering ethics but not to the degree that engineering students do.

REP. JENSEN: No matter which course you take you can become a registered engineer? Rep. Nordtvedt: The Mechanical Engineer Tech has to work four years, take the test, and wait four more years. Rep. Jensen: If we pass this law, then his route to a professional engineer is shortened four years? Nordtvedt: Yes.

REP. ELLISON: That boy took his test in Oklahoma. How many of our neighboring states allow that to happen? Rep. Nordtvedt:

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Business & Industry Committee

We are one of the more restrictive states. The waiting period for tech students is from zero years to three or four. There are about as many variations as there are states.

REP. KADAS: Are there different rates of pay for engineer-in-training and registered engineers? Mr. Hanson: It would be comparable to an architect and a draftsman.

REP. BACHINI: Could the 8 hour test be broadened?

Mr. Hanson: I could take a high school graduate with four years of math, give him a book on taking the exam with a concentrated study and he could pass the test. It's on basic fundamentals. There is no way to change the test to replace the educational fundamentals.

REP. PAVLOVICH: If they fail the exam the first time, how long do they have to wait to take it again? Mr. Hanson: Six months.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

HOUSE BILL 595

REP. KITSELMAN made the motion DO PASS HOUSE BILL 595.

Question: Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 633

REP. PAVLOVICH moved the amendment to eliminate optometrists and plumbers.

REP. SCHULTZ: Wouldn't the optometrists and plumbers line up after one year? Rep. Harper: In rule making there will be hearings and if they want to take part in the hearing they can.

Question: Motion failed.

REP. KADAS moved the amendment to change the effective date until January 1, 1984.

Question: Motion carried unanimously.

REP. ELLISON moved that HOUSE BILL 633 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Question: Motion carried with Rep. Pavlovich voting no.

REP. ELLISON moved the Statement of Intent DO PASS.

Question: Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 647

REP. HARPER moved that HOUSE BILL 647 DO NOT PASS. Should you give any person who can pass the medical exam a license to practice medicine? The test isn't the sorting mechanism.

REP. KITSELMAN: All this bill does is weaken the bachelor's degree.

REP. METCALF: I don't see how they are suppose to advance if they are not allowed to take the E.I.T. What the corporations do is put the mechanical tech's to work at a lot lesser pay grade and "use" them, in effect, until they can take the exam.

Question: The motion that HOUSE BILL 647 DO NOT PASS carried 6-11. (Roll call vote attached)

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REP. METCALF appointed a sub-committee to study House Bill 638 and return with proposed amendments. Members are Rep. Hansen, Rep. Fabrega and Rep. Bachini.

REP. FABREGA: The Select Committee on Economic Development is not a standing committee and they have requested Business & Industry to authorize the drafting of three bills they wish introduced. One bill deals with energy conservation on finished products - the second deals with the manufacture of wood stoves and heaters that emit minimal pollutants - and one that deals with tax incentives for the manufacture or assembly of renewable energy equipment.

REP. HANSEN: I move the three bills be submitted for drafting.

Question: Motion carried unanimously.

The hearing adjourned at 12:00 noon.



REP. JERRY METCALF, CHAIRMAN



Linda Palmer, Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 11 19 83

MR. SPEAKER:

We, your committee on BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 647

first reading copy (white)
color

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A PERSON WITH
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING TO QUALIFY FOR CERTIFICATION
AS AN ENGINEER-IN-TRAINING; AND REMOVING A CURRICULUM
APPROVAL REQUIREMENT; AMENDING SECTION 37-67-307, MCA."

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 647

DO NOT PASS
XX DO NOT PASS XX

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 11

19 83

SPEAKER:

MR.

We, your committee on BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 633

~~first reading copy (white)~~
color

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO ESTABLISH THE RENEWAL DATES FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES BY RULE; AMENDING SECTIONS 37-1-101, 37-9-304, 37-9-305, 37-10-307, 37-14-310, 37-30-307, 37-30-423, 37-67-315, AND 37-69-307, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 633

BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Page 9, line 25
Following: "effective"
Strike: "July 1, 1983"
Insert: "January 1, 1984"

AND AS AMENDED

DO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT ATTACHED

MR. SPEAKER:

WE YOUR COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, HAVING HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION HOUSE BILL NO. 633, FIRST READING COPY WHITE, ATTACH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF INTENT:

STATEMENT OF INTENT
HOUSE BILL 633

A statement of intent is required with House Bill 633 because it provides that the department of commerce may establish renewal dates for certain licenses by rule.

It is the intention of the legislature that in the promulgation of such rules, the department will consult with the affected boards, and, where possible, the professions to be regulated. It is the intention of this legislature that in attempting to meet the needs of the department in maintaining efficient licensing procedures, the needs of the board and the professions regulated are given the closest scrutiny and consideration.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 11

1933

MR. SPEAKER:

We, your committee on BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 595

first reading copy (white)
color

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE DUTY TO
EXAMINE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF PROPOSED DOMESTIC INSURERS
FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE STATE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE;
AMENDING SECTION 33-3-202, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
EFFECTIVE DATE."

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 595

DO PASS

ROLL CALL VOTE ----- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COMMITTEE COMMITTEE

	Date: No:	Date: No:	Date: No:	Date: No:	Date: No:
	2-11 Date: HB 647 DO NOT PASS				
PAVLOVICH, Bob	no		WALLIN, Norm	yes	
BACHINI, Robert	yes		METCALF, Jerry	no	
ELLERD, Bob					
ELLISON, Orval	yes				
FABREGA, Jay	no				
FAGG, Harrison					
HANSEN, Stella Jean	yes				
HARPER, Hal	yes				
HART, Marjorie	no				
HOWE, Romona	no				
JENSEN, William	no				
KADAS, Mike	yes				
KITSELMAN, Les	yes				
LYBECK, Ray					
NISBET, Gerald	yes				
SAUNDERS, Glenn	yes				
SCHULTZ, Jim	yes				

6-11

BOARD OF PLUMBERS OPPOSITION TO HB 633

House Bill 633 calls for amendments to different licensing board's statutes to allow the Department of Commerce to set renewal dates. This would allow for staggering of renewal dates.

The Board of Plumbers opposes the bill as the renewal dates for plumbers are already staggered. Each licensee renews his license in the month the license was originally issued. Examination dates are staggered throughout the year to allow for an even distribution of renewal dates.

Attached is a page from the Legislative Audit Committee's report on performance of the Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing (now a bureau under the Department of Commerce). You will note staggered renewal is suggested in this report. One of the methods to accomplish this is listed as "licensees within a particular category can be staggered (i.e., one-twelfth of the Plumbers in each month)." As the current statute already provides for this, the board is opposed to this bill

It should also be noted that should this bill pass with an effective date of July 1, some of the boards which renew by July 1 would be placed in a position of having no renewal deadline, as there may not be adequate time to set a renewal date by administrative rule prior to July 1. Some boards could be placed in financial difficulty should the bill pass.

The mandate of renewing most licenses during two particular periods has caused administrative assistants to neglect other administrative duties or has caused the department to hire part-time help to assist them. In addition, the January and July deadlines are inconvenient times of the year in terms of the holiday season, vacations, fiscal year-end and budget activity.

In a survey of states, we found that many other states use a system for license renewals known as "staggering." Staggering is the use of several renewal deadlines so that no one particular time of the year has a large amount of renewals. This can be done in two ways: First, the types of licenses can be staggered throughout the year (i.e., Pharmacists in September and Nurses in December); or, the licensees within a particular category can be staggered (i.e., one-twelfth of the Plumbers in each month).

If it were decided to stagger the renewal dates for the boards throughout one year, Illustration 10 shows a possible distribution. If biennial renewals were implemented, along with staggering renewals, the renewals could be distributed over the biennium and Illustration 11 shows a possible distribution. (Both illustrations are based on 1979 license data.) The renewal dates shown in these examples were chosen because:

1. The fiscal year-end period is avoided.
2. The time periods necessary for preparation and processing of renewals do not overlap.



Health services association

P.O. Box 43099
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55184
TELEPHONE: (612) 645-5821

January 12, 1983

Billings Deaconess Hospital
Broadway at Ninth Ave. N.
P.O. Box 2547
Billings, MT 59103

Re: James A. Harper
Membership #03132008

Att: Sheryle C. Schmaltz

We have your letter regarding a claim for the above captioned member on the date of 9-29/10-7-82

Please be advised that this claim was received in our office on 11-22-82. Our normal processing time is 90 days from the date the claim is received in our office.

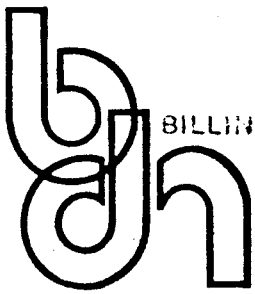
After the 90 days has expired, you will receive the benefit of \$288.24.

If we may be of further service, please do not hesitate to advise.

Yours very truly,

Cindy Pilot
Claims Department

cp



BILLINGS DEACONESS HOSPITAL

January 28, 1983

Minnesota Protective Life
7901 Flying Cloud Dr.
Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55343

Policyholder: John Carlin
Patient: same
Policy No.: 133-336838, S.S.# 517 70 2062
Admitted: 12-10-82
Discharged: 12-20-82
Date Claim Filed: 12-27-82; 12-17-82
Amount of Claim: 12560.05 and 2183.35 total bill \$14743.40

Dear Sir or Madam:

According to our records the above claim has not been paid. Since we have had no explanation for nonpayment of this claim, we are assuming all information necessary to process the claim has been provided.

Please advise as to the date we may expect payment. Unless word is received promptly, the policyholder will be contacted for payment of the full balance and charged interest after 75 days.

Thank you for taking the time to answer our inquiry.

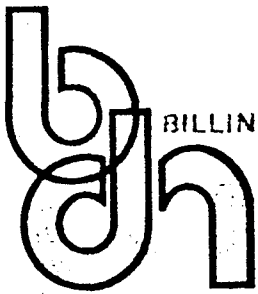
Sincerely,

Hazel Borstad
Patient Service Representative

2-8-83

The claim is being processed and benefits will be sent soon.

C. Talbot
Claim Department



BILLINGS DEACONESS HOSPITAL

January 28, 1983

Union Fidelity
4850 Street Road
Trevose, Pennsylvania 19047

Policyholder: Glen Childers
Patient: same
Policy No.: 10-3 326265, S.S. # 517 07 4538
Admitted: 12-9-82
Discharged: 12-13-82
Date Claim Filed: 12-30-82
Amount of Claim: 2307.15 (balance after medicar \$264.41)

Dear Sir or Madam:

According to our records the above claim has not been paid. Since we have had no explanation for nonpayment of this claim, we are assuming all information necessary to process the claim has been provided.

Please advise as to the date we may expect payment. Unless word is received promptly, the policyholder will be contacted for payment of the full balance and charged interest after 75 days.

Thank you for taking the time to answer our inquiry.

Sincerely,

Hazel Borstad
Patient Service Representative

REC'D - UFLIC
FEB 03 1983
CLAIM DEPT.



UNION FIDELITY LIFE INSURANCE CO.

UNION FIDELITY OFFICE PARK • TREVOSE, PENNSYLVANIA 19049

Policyowner:
Policy Number:
Patient:

See
Attached

We have received your assignment of benefits for services provided for the above patient. This assignment cannot be honored for the following reason:

- ☐ Benefits have been denied.
- ☐ This policy does not provide benefits for the services which you provided.
- ☐ Benefits were paid direct to the policyowner prior to receipt of your assignment. Please look to the patient for payment.
- ☒ Other: We are currently obtaining
Additional information from the
policyowner.

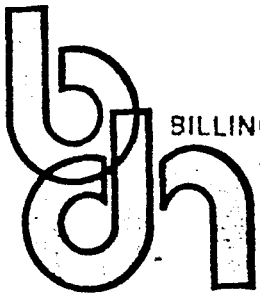
Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

N. Lavin

N. Lavin
BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

cl/5J



BILLINGS DEACONESS HOSPITAL

Billings, Montana 59103

Phone 438-657-4000

1-28-83

Policyholder: *PATRICIA D. HOLMGREN*
Patient: *SAME*
Policy No.: *Billings Deaconess Hospital*
Admitted: *9-1-82*
Discharged: *9-4-82*
Date Claim Filed: *9-13-82*
Amount of Claim: *\$ 2403.30*

(3rd REQUEST for payment)

Dear Sir or Madam:

According to our records the above claim has not been paid. Since we have had no explanation for nonpayment of this claim, we are assuming all information necessary to process the claim has been provided.

Please advise as to the date we may expect payment. Unless word is received promptly, the policyholder will be contacted for payment of the full balance and charged interest after 75 days.

Thank you for taking the time to answer our inquiry.

Sincerely,

Shirley L. Schmaatz
PSR

2-7-83

*Claim was sent to our
home office for determination and
insured was notified at that
time.*

Trisha Johnson

H.B. 638

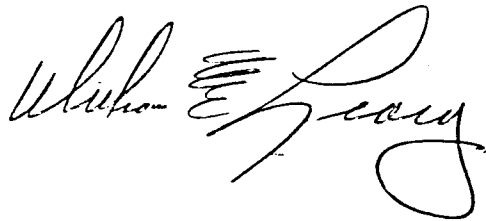
2/11

9:00 a.m.

R.420

1. In 1982 Montana's 60 hospitals charged off over \$11 million (exclusive of Medicare - \$21,957,413; Medicaid - \$4,132,348; and charity \$3,764,842 deductions) in bad debts - a significant portion being that balance of the patient's bill left after the insurance companies finally pay the bill. It is our contention that if all companies would process and pay claims in a more timely fashion, we could reach debtors and set up reasonable payment schedules for the balance and significantly cut down on the bad debt.
2. Montana hospitals are also employers having some 9,710 F.T.E.s.

As such, cover their employees with a hospitalization insurance program - Blue Shield, Blue Cross, Aetna or in the case of one hospital, self insured. Hospitals pay the single employee premium rate.
3. Employees have expressed to administration the slowness of claims processing and have actively asked administration to check with the carrier as to why the claim is taking so long to get paid.
4. H.B. 638 is an expression of not only hospital and physician fiscal managers and credit managers but of concern to all employers who pay a significant portion of the premium. It is the start of and key to a true universal claims processing and timely payment system.



HOUSE *Bus. & Ind.* COMMITTEE

DATE 2-11

[illegible]

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE Bus. + Ind.

COMMITTEE

BILL HB 638

DATE 2-11

SPONSOR _____

[illegible]

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Bus. + Ind.

COMMITTEE

DATE 2-11

FORM CS-33

[illegible]

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Bus. & Ind.

COMMITTEE

HB 595

2-11

SPONSOR

Margaret Johnson
Smyth

Helena

ATTY Gen.

X

Seleni

FD 71

X

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Shirley M. Miller Committee On Bus & Inv
Address Dept of Commerce Date 5-11-83
Representing " " "A Prof. Reading Support ✓
Bill No. 633 Oppose _____
Amend ✓

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. *Legislative audit 2 yrs ago recommended this legislation*
2. *Will allow dept to establish renewal dates by rule - allowing for efficient use of staff.*
3. *2 graphs distributed to committee from 1980 legislative audit.*
4. *Department will not establish any rules without complete agreement of the boards*

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name TERRY JACKSON Committee On BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
Address 4 North Western Dr. Date 2-11-83
Representing Mech. Engineering Tech. Support ✓
Bill No. 697 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. THE PASSING OF THIS BILL DOES NOT MAKE ANY ENGINEERING GRADUATE AN ENGINEER IN TRAINING BUT RATHER GIVES A PERSON THE OPPORTUNITY TO
2. TAKE THE EXAM, WHICH MUST BE PASSED IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED AN ENGINEER IN TRAINING.
3. THE LAW IN MY MIND IS UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY.
4. NOT ALLOWING TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES TO TAKE THE E.I.T. EXAM FOR 4 YEARS CAUSES MANY GOOD ENGINEERS TO LEAVE THE STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME J S Hanson

BILL No. AB-647

ADDRESS HELENA

DATE 2/11/82

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT MONT. TECHNICAL COUNCIL

SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE X AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. PRESENT COURSE IS NOT COMPARABLE TO Engineering COURSE
2. C.T. COURSES ARE FOR INSTRUCTIONS & WHILE ENGINEERING COURSES ARE FOR DESIGN.
3. MATH COURSES ARE NOT SIMILAR.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Ken Rutledge Committee On B & I
Address P.O. Box 5119 Helena Date 2/11/83
Representing _____ Support ✓
Bill No. AB 638 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name CODY KARDOKUS Committee On BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
Address BOX 63, HERON MT Date FEB 11, 1983
Representing MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY Support ✓
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bill No. 647 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE THE E.I.T. EXAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HINDERS PEOPLE IN THAT MANY THINGS ARE FORGOTTEN DURING THE 4 YEAR WAITING PERIOD.
2. A NUMBER OF THE STUDENTS IN MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PASS THE E.I.T. IN THE PAST
3. THE TEST ITSELF SHOULD BE THE FACTOR WHICH DETERMINES THE ABILITY OF ENGINEER.
4. THE MECH. ENG. TECH AT M.S.U. HAS BEEN GRANTED A CHARTER TO JOIN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS WHICH IS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION AND THAT IN ITSELF SHOULD SHOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY A VERY ESTEEMED GROUP OF ENGINEERS.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Bill Olson Committee On Bus. & Industry
Address Helena Date 2/11/83
Representing MT. Contractors Support X
Bill No. HB 647 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Loy Grimes Committee On Claims Payments HB 638
Address 3500 So 5th Locustella, Id 83201 Date 2-11-83
Representing Farmers Insurance Exch Support _____
Bill No. HB 638 Oppose X
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. *The bill is not specific as to what types of insurance is involved. It is not always possible to investigate sufficiently to decide complex claims within the prescribed time.*
2. *Procedure is already established in the farm claims practices.*
- 3.
- 4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Bob JAMES
Address Box 2885 g. Falls
Representing STATE FARM INS.
Bill No. HB 638

Committee On B & I
Date 2/11/83
Support _____
Oppose ✓
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name GLENN McFARLANE Committee On _____
Address 6252 GOLDEN W. TERR. BLOS. Date 2-11-83
Representing BLOS. DEACONESS HOSP. Support ✓
Bill No. HB 638 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1.

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4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name William Larsen Committee On _____
Address 1012 Kagy Date 2/11/83
Representing College of Engr Support _____
Bill No. HB 647 Oppose ✓
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name MIKE BARTSCH Committee On Business & Industry
 Address 615 N. WARREN, HELENA Date FEBRUARY 11, 1983
 Representing MECHANICAL Engineering Technology Club HELENA STATE UNIVERSITY Support ✓
 Bill No. HB 647 Oppose _____
 Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. Presently, An Engineering Technologist cannot take the E.I.T. EXAM until four years after graduation. This places, at the time, an UNDO amount of pressure on this Technologist due to the fact
2. the the major context of the EXAM DEALS with material taken in all courses of education. After graduation and subsequent employment, the individual
3. retains material which he or she is directly involved with but does lose much knowledge in surrounding areas. This fact discriminates against a technology
4. student, who has studied and passed an accredited curriculum, in passing the EXAM even though he or she is qualified.

I personally don't know at this time if I will take the E.I.T. immediately upon graduation, but I would hate to see my future potential limited due to this catch in the law.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Wyatt Loftus Committee On Business and Indust
Address 14522 Helligate Ln Date Feb. 11 1993
Tomb MIT 59805
Representing Mechanical Engineering Technology Support ✓
Club, Montana State University
Bill No. H B 647 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. Letting Engineering Technology Graduates take the E.I.T. Test after 4 years but not after graduation as the Engineering Graduates can do discriminates.
2. With surrounding states allowing Engineering Technology Graduates to take the E.I.T. Test upon graduation Technology Graduates generally leave the state of Montana.
- 3.
- 4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name JOE MERHAN Committee On BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
Address 546 EIGHTH AVE SOUTH SHELBY, MT Date FEBRUARY 11, 1983
Representing MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM, MONTANA STATE U Support /
Bill No. 647 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST HAS THE NECESSARY BACKGROUND UPON COMPLETING A FOUR YEAR COURSE OF STUDY AT MSU. TO PASS THE E.IT EXAM. PAST TESTING HAS SHOWN THIS TO BE A FACT!
2. IT IS DISCRIMINATORY TO AN ENGINEER TECHNOLOGIST TO HAVE (HE/SHE) WAIT FOUR YEARS TO TAKE THIS EXAM AS ITS EASIER TO PASS A TEST WHEN THE MATERIAL IS FRESH IN HIS/HER MIND.
3. THIS NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE THIS TEST TENDS TO DRIVE ENGINEERS OUT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA.
4. ABOUT 40% OF THE STATES IN THE UNITED STATES DO NOT REQUIRE THE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST TO WAIT A TIME PERIOD TO TAKE THIS TEST. THE TEST IS A NATIONALIZED TEST (EXCEPT CALIFORNIA) SO WHY SHOULD MONTANA LAW BE DIFFERENT FROM THEIRS!

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

I am an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Montana State University. The following comments are my own personal feelings concerning SB 647. It is my understanding that passage of this bill would allow engineering technology students the opportunity to take the engineering training exam at the same stage in their academic training as is now afforded engineering students.

The intent of the EIT exam is to establish competency of scientific knowledge basic to the engineering sciences. This knowledge, if it has been attained is not so efficiently recalled by any student after a long period of time has passed.

The professional examination, which cannot be attempted until after a proscribed number of years of experience under the guidance of a registered engineer have been completed, is designed to test a relatively specific level of knowledge in a relatively specific area of engineering. To require that the EIT exam cannot be taken until after a number of years have passed since graduation, during which time work in a specific area of engineering is occurring, is in my opinion

unfair and discriminatory. I am therefore
in favor of passage of this bill.

William R. Martindale



DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BOZEMAN 59717

February 10, 1983

1983 Montana Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

To the Honorable Members of the 1983 Montana Legislature:

I am writing in support of House Bill 647 to allow engineering technology students enrolled in, or graduated from, four-year baccalaureate curricula to take the Engineer-In-Training examination just the same as other engineering students and graduates.

I feel the present rules are discriminatory, unfair, and inadequate. As presently written and enforced, I feel the emphasis is on protecting the positions of existing professional engineers rather than protecting the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "T. R. Murphy".

T. R. Murphy
Assistant Professor

TRM/tlk