

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

H

1

HOUSE BILL 511*

Short Title: Noncovered Vision Services. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Stone, Murry, Jeter, and Collins (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Health and Human Services.

April 3, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT INSURERS AND HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS FROM LIMITING
3 OR FIXING THE FEE AN OPTOMETRIST MAY CHARGE PATIENTS FOR
4 SERVICES OR MATERIALS UNLESS THE SERVICES OR MATERIALS ARE
5 COVERED BY REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE PLAN OR INSURER CONTRACT
6 WITH THE OPTOMETRIST.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. Part 7 of Article 50 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended
9 by adding a new section to read as follows:

10 "**§ 58-50-295. Health benefit plans or insurers contracting for provision of vision services**
11 **or materials; no limitation on fees for noncovered services or materials.**

12 (a) No agreement between an insurer or an entity that writes vision insurance and an
13 optometrist for the provision of vision services on a preferred or in-network basis to plan
14 members or insurance subscribers in connection with coverage under a stand-alone vision plan,
15 a medical plan, or health insurance policy may require that an optometrist provide services or
16 materials at a fee limited or set by the plan or insurer unless the services or materials are
17 reimbursed as covered services under the contract.

18 (b) For purposes of this section, "covered services" means a service for which
19 reimbursement is available under an insurer's policy without regard to contractual limitations
20 by a deductible, copayment, coinsurance, waiting period, annual or lifetime maximum,
21 frequency limitation, alternative benefit payment, or other limitation. For purposes of this
22 section, "materials" includes lenses, devices containing lenses, prisms, lens treatments and
23 coatings, contact lenses, orthoptics, vision training, and prosthetic devices to correct, relieve, or
24 treat defects or abnormal conditions of the human eye or its adnexa."

25 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 2013, and applies to contracts
26 entered into, amended, or renewed on or after that date.

