

**Act No. 164 (S.215). Health; health insurance; vision care plans; optometrists, ophthalmologists; opticians**

**An act relating to the regulation of vision insurance plans**

This act prohibits a vision care or other health insurance plan from restricting or otherwise limiting an optometrist's, ophthalmologist's, or independent optician's choice of sources, suppliers, and optical laboratories if the provider determines that the source, supplier, or laboratory he or she has chosen offers products, services, or materials in a manner that is more beneficial to the consumer, including with respect to cost, quality, timing, or selection, than the one chosen by the plan. It prohibits a plan from imposing any penalties or fees on a provider for using any supplier, laboratory, product, service, or material. The provider must notify the consumer of any additional costs the consumer may incur because the products, service, or materials are coming from the source, supplier, or laboratory that the provider selected rather than the one selected by the plan. The act requires the Department of Financial Regulation to enforce the provisions of the bill and provisions of existing law relating to vision care plans.

Effective Date: July 1, 2016