



HOUSE BILL 156: Eyeglasses Exemption From Medicaid Capitation.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health	Date:	March 8, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. McNeill, Lambeth, Dobson, Brisson	Prepared by:	Jennifer Hillman
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 156 would exempt the coverage of eyeglasses from the services that will be covered by Prepaid Health Plans under Medicaid transformation and would allow payment for eyeglasses to continue under existing arrangements.*

BILL ANALYSIS: Medicaid transformation legislation, S.L. 2015-245, as amended by S.L. 2016-121, requires transition of the current Medicaid and NC Health Choice service delivery system to capitated contracts with Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs). Beginning 18 months after federal approval for the transformation is obtained, PHPs will receive a capitated per enrollee/per month payment to cover all services currently covered by the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs, except for specified services.

Section 1 of the bill adds the fabrication of eyeglasses, including complete eyeglasses, eyeglass lenses, and ophthalmic frames, to the list of services that will not be included in the service package covered by PHPs. This would allow reimbursement for eyeglasses to continue under existing arrangements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

CURRENT LAW / BACKGROUND: Eyeglasses are covered for Medicaid beneficiaries under the age of 21 and NC Health Choice beneficiaries aged 6 through 18, pursuant to G.S. 108A-70.21(b)(2) and Medicaid and Health Choice Clinical Coverage Policy 6A. The Department of Public Safety Nash Optical Plant Optical Laboratory is the optical laboratory contracted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Medical Assistance, to fabricate eyeglasses for Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries. When Medicaid transformation is implemented, the State will no longer contract directly with providers for services that are covered by PHPs. Services that are not covered by PHPs but are covered by Medicaid and NC Health Choice will continue to be covered through other payment arrangements established by DHHS.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578