

1 S.54

2 Introduced by Senators Ashe and Kitchel

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; dental insurance; assignment of payment for benefits

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a dental  
7 plan subscriber to direct payment for covered dental services to dentists outside  
8 of the dental plan's provider network.

9 An act relating to the assignment of payment for dental benefits

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. REDESIGNATION

12 (a) 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, subchapter 13 (tobacco cessation) is redesignated  
13 as 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, subchapter 15.

14 (b) 8 V.S.A. § 4100j (coverage for tobacco cessation programs) is  
15 redesignated as 8 V.S.A. § 4100l.

16 Sec. 2. 8 V.S.A. § 4100j is added in chapter 107, subchapter 12 to read:

17 § 4100j. ASSIGNMENT OF PAYMENT FOR BENEFITS

18 (a) As used in this section, "dental plan" means any insurance policy that is  
19 issued by a health care service contractor, health maintenance organization,  
20 health insurer, dental insurer, or any similar entity subject to regulation by the

1 Department of Financial Regulation, which provides coverage for dental  
2 services as a stand-alone dental plan or in connection with a health insurance  
3 plan as defined in section 4088h of this title.

4 (b) A subscriber of a dental plan may direct the payment for a dental  
5 service covered under the plan to a dentist outside of the dental plan's provider  
6 network who provided the covered dental service to the subscriber. If the  
7 subscriber's authority to assign payment for a covered dental service to a  
8 dentist outside of the dental plan's provider network is exercised, the dental  
9 plan shall submit payment directly to the dentist providing the covered dental  
10 service.

11 (c) An assignment of payment for a covered dental service pursuant to this  
12 section shall not limit or otherwise affect the payment of benefits or coverage  
13 provided under the dental plan.

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.