

Testimony
House Bill No. 1047
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
February 20, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Corey Kjos, Enterprise Operations Manager with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of House Bill No. 1047, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The Department is requesting updates to information that insurers must provide to the Department for individuals who are eligible for medical assistance to be in line with recent Federal legislative changes for the same purpose which were signed into law on March 15, 2022.

Section 1:

The proposed changes in Section 1 of this Bill amend section 50-24.1-29 of the North Dakota Century Code regarding certain information insurers are to provide to the department. These changes provide clarification to, or additional requirements for items that insurers are already doing as a part of doing business in the State.

Page 1, line 22 through 23 clarifies that insurers must also provide the duration of the health insurance coverage. This would allow the department to know if a Medicaid recipient has/had active insurance coverage so the Department can correctly notify providers of that coverage or seek reimbursement from the insurer for services that have been paid for by the Department.

Page 2, line 23 adds that insurers accept the departments entitlement to payment. This payment would be as reimbursement to expenses that the Department had previously made for the insured individual.

Page 2, line 27 adds language to include a 60-day timeframe to the already existing requirement that insurers respond to inquiries made by the department.

Page 3, lines 7 through 11 adds additional language that insurers accept an authorization made by Medicaid as if the prior authorization was made by the insurer and that they also agree not to deny a request for reimbursement by the department solely for failure to obtain a prior authorization for the item or service.

With the additions and clarifications to 50-24.1-29 the Department will be able to more effectively identify and recover payments from liable third-party insurers, which will allow the State to more effectively and efficiently use our Medicaid dollars to support individuals' health and wellness.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.