

1 **HEALTH INSURERS - REFERRAL TO**
2 **SPECIALIST PROCESS**

3 2000 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Sponsor: Mary Carlson**

6 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE; REQUIRING AN INSURER TO ESTABLISH A
7 PROCESS FOR STANDING REFERRALS TO HEALTH CARE SPECIALISTS; AND
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

9 This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

10 ENACTS:

11 **31A-22-625**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

13 Section 1. Section **31A-22-625** is enacted to read:

14 **31A-22-625. Standing referral to a specialist.**

15 (1) With respect to a health insurance policy or health maintenance organization contract
16 that does not allow an insured to have direct access to a health care specialist, the insurer shall
17 establish and implement a procedure by which an insured may obtain a standing referral to a health
18 care specialist.

19 (2) The procedure established under Subsection (1):

20 (a) shall provide for a standing referral to a specialist if the insured's primary care provider
21 determines, in consultation with the specialist, that the insured needs continuing care from the
22 specialist; and

23 (b) may require the insurer's approval of a treatment plan designed by the specialist, in
24 consultation with the primary care provider and the insured, which may include:

25 (i) a limit on the number of visits to the specialist;

26 (ii) a time limit on the duration of the referral; and

27 (iii) mandatory updates on the insured's condition.

28 Section 2. **Effective date.**
29 This act takes effect on July 1, 2000.

Legislative Review Note
as of 11-1-99 7:36 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel