



HOUSE BILL 683: Occup. Therapy/Choice of Provider

2013-2014 General Assembly

Committee:	House Insurance	Date:	April 21, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Avila, Blackwell, Hurley, Holley	Prepared by:	Amy Jo Johnson
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *House Bill 683 adds occupational therapists to the list of providers from which an individual has the right to choose the provider of services under a health benefit plan.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 58-50-30 lists the various types of health care providers from which a policy holder, insured, or beneficiary ("insured") may choose under a health benefit plan, subscriber contract, or policy of insurance ("policy"). The services must be of a nature that the policy provides coverage of, or payment or reimbursement. If the policy requires use of network providers, the insured must choose a provider of services within the network. If the policy requires use of network providers as a condition of obtaining a higher level of benefits, the insured must choose a provider of services within network in order to obtain the higher level of benefits.

The provisions of G.S. 58-50-30 are applicable to the State Health Plan pursuant to G.S. 135-48.51.

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 683 amends G.S. 58-50-30 to add "an occupational therapist licensed by the North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy pursuant to Article 18D of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes" to the list of health care providers from which an insured may choose under a policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act becomes effective October 1, 2015 and applies to health benefit contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

