

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 839

Short Title: Insurance Claims Payments/Y2K.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Wellons.

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Referred to: Insurance.

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April 13, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE TO REQUIRE  
2 INTERIM CLAIMS PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS IN THE EVENT CLAIMS  
3 CANNOT BE TIMELY PROCESSED DUE TO YEAR 2000 COMPUTER  
4 PROBLEMS.  
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. Effective January 1, 2000, Article 2 of Chapter 58 of the General  
8 Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

9 **"§ 58-2-235. Interim claims payments authorized.**

10 (a) Every insurer, third-party administrator, and health care provider shall report to  
11 the Commissioner if it cannot process or submit claims for services in a timely manner  
12 due to problems associated with the change in years from 1999 to 2000. The report shall  
13 be made within five business days of determining that the problem exists.

14 (b) The Commissioner shall require an insurer or third-party administrator to make  
15 interim payments to health care providers if the Commissioner determines that interim  
16 payments are necessary to prevent the disruption of the delivery of health care services.  
17 The Commissioner shall determine the amount of the interim payments. In determining  
18 the amount, the Commissioner shall use the same methodology, if any, that is applicable  
19 under federal law for determining the amount of interim payments required by federal  
20 law.

- 1       (c) As used in this section, the term:  
2           (1) 'Health care provider' means any person who is licensed, registered, or  
3           certified under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes; a health care facility  
4           as defined in G.S. 131E-176(9)(b); or a pharmacy.  
5           (2) 'Insurer' means an entity that writes a health benefit plan as defined  
6           under G.S. 58-3-191 and that is an insurance company subject to this  
7           Chapter, a service corporation organized under Article 65 of this  
8           Chapter, a health maintenance organization organized under Article 67  
9           of this Chapter, and a multiple employer welfare arrangement subject to  
10          Article 49 of this Chapter.  
11          (3) 'Third-party administrator' has the same definition as applies under G.S.  
12          58-56-2."  
13          Section 2. The Commissioner may adopt temporary rules to implement this  
14          act.  
15          Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law and expires December 31,  
16          2000.