

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE BILL NO. 2274
(Senators J. Lee, Heckaman, Klein)
(Representatives Keiser, Thorpe, Weisz)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 26.1-36-44 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to health insurance independent external reviews requested by providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-36-44 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-36-44. Independent external review. Every insurance company, nonprofit health service corporation, and health maintenance organization that offers an accident and health line of insurance shall establish and implement an independent external review mechanism to review and determine whether medical care rendered under the line of insurance was medically necessary and appropriate to the claim as submitted by the provider. For purposes of this section, "independent external review" means a review conducted by the North Dakota health care review, inc., another peer review organization meeting the requirements of section 1152 of the Social Security Act, or any person designated by the commissioner to conduct an independent external review. A determination made by the independent external reviewer is binding on the parties. Costs associated with the independent external review are the responsibility of the nonprevailing party. A provider may not use an independent external review under this section unless the provider first has exhausted all internal appeal processes offered by the insurance company, nonprofit health service corporation, or health maintenance organization.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2274.

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 92 Nays 1 Absent 1

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State