TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
DATE: February 15, 2018
SUBJECT: Strike everything amendment to S.B. 1085, relating to AHCCCS; naturopathic physicians

Purpose

Redefines primary care practitioner, as it relates to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), to include naturopathic physicians.

Background

AHCCCS was originally established by the Legislature in 1981 as Arizona’s Medicaid program to provide health insurance coverage for certain low-income individuals and families. AHCCCS uses federal, state and county funds to provide health care coverage to Arizona's acute and long-term care Medicaid populations. AHCCCS contracts with health professionals to provide certain medically necessary health and medical services to AHCCCS members.

Currently, contractors with AHCCCS are required to provide the following services to AHCCCS members if ordered or provided by a primary care practitioner: 1) inpatient hospital services; 2) outpatient health services; 3) laboratory and X-ray services; 4) medical supplies; 5) podiatry services; and 6) home health services (A.R.S. § 36-2907).

Statute defines primary care practitioner, as it relates to AHCCCS, to include nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Additionally, the practice of naturopathic medicine is described as a medical system of diagnosing and treating diseases, injuries, ailments, infirmities and other conditions of the human mind and body including by natural means, drugless methods, drugs, nonsurgical methods, devices, physical, electrical, hygienic and sanitary measures and all forms of physical agents and modalities (A.R.S. § 32-1501).

The impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation is unknown.

Provisions

1. Redefines primary care practitioner, as it applies to AHCCCS, to include a licensed naturopathic physician and specifies that the inclusion does not expand the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians.

2. Makes technical changes.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

1. Adopted the strike everything amendment.

2. Changes the effective date to October 1, 2019.

Senate Action

HHS  2/14/18   DPA  6-0-1