

ASSEMBLY, No. 1518

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 1996

By Assemblyman DALTON

1 AN ACT concerning medical service corporations and supplementing  
2 P.L.1940, c.74 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.).

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of P.L.1940, c.74  
8 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.), benefits shall not be denied to an eligible  
9 individual for eligible services when those services are performed or  
10 rendered to the individual by a certified acupuncturist within the scope  
11 of his practice. The practice of acupuncture shall be deemed to be  
12 within the provisions of P.L.1940, c.74 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.), and  
13 certified acupuncturists shall have the privileges and benefits in the  
14 scope of their practice under that act as are afforded thereunder to  
15 licensed physicians and surgeons in the scope of their practice.

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17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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22 This bill requires medical service corporations to reimburse certified  
23 acupuncturists as providers of health care services for services  
24 provided within the acupuncturist's scope of practice and within the  
25 scope of the medical service corporation's contract.

26 In 1983 the State enacted P.L.1983, c.7 (C.45:2C-1 et seq.) to  
27 regulate the practice of acupuncture. The law provides that a person  
28 must be certified under that law in order to practice acupuncture in the  
29 State, but permits a physician or dentist to practice acupuncture  
30 without obtaining a certificate if that health care practitioner has  
31 received training in acupuncture. If acupuncture is performed by a  
32 physician in this State, the patient can receive third party insurance  
33 reimbursement for the service, but if the same acupuncture services are  
34 provided by a certified acupuncturist, third party reimbursement is not  
35 available. This bill insures that persons receive reimbursement under  
36 a medical service corporation contract for covered acupuncture  
37 services that are provided by any practitioner regulated by the State.

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3 Provides that certified acupuncturists are eligible for reimbursement by  
4 medical service corporations.