AN ACT concerning the state healthcare benefits program, relating to
dental service benefits; assignment thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Health insurer" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 40-4602,
and amendments thereto, and also includes a nonprofit dental service
corporation as such term is used in K.S.A. 40-19a01 et seq., and
amendments thereto.

(2) "Insured" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 40-4602, and
amendments thereto, and also includes a subscriber to a subscription
agreement issued by a nonprofit dental service corporation as such term is
used in K.S.A. 40-19a01 et seq., and amendments thereto.

(3) "Participating provider" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 40-
4602, and amendments thereto, and also includes any dentist who has
entered into a participation agreement with a nonprofit dental service
corporation.

(b) Each state employee healthcare benefits program plan that is
delivered, issued for delivery, amended or renewed on or after July 1,
2019, shall:

(1) Allow the insured to contract directly with any dentist to receive
dental care services without penalty;

(2) provide information regarding the insured's dental benefit
coverage to any dentist or dental office designated by the insured;

(3) provide that the insured of the plan may assign the right to the
payment or reimbursement of the insured's benefits to the dentist who
provides the dental care service;

(4) make benefit maximum payment schedules available to insureds;

(5) accept claims formatted or transmitted in any manner authorized
by law.

(c) A benefit amount paid for receiving dental care services shall be
the same whether or not the insured's dentist providing such dental care
services is a participating provider and belongs to the health insurer's
provider network. The payment required by this subsection shall not
adversely affect the insured's deductible or copayment under the state
employee healthcare benefits program plan.

(d) A health insurer shall not reduce an insured's benefit payment amount as a result of any other insured's benefit error or transaction by the administrator or provider of the state employee healthcare benefits program plan.

(e) After receiving an assignment of benefits, direct payment of the insured's benefit to the assignee shall satisfy the plan administrator's benefit payment obligation.

(f) Any dentist licensed by the Kansas dental board who maintains professional liability insurance in accordance with K.S.A. 65-1468, and amendments thereto, shall be eligible for in-network contract status with a state employee healthcare benefits program plan.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.