

(b) For purposes of this section, "direct access" means that a female enrollee may obtain the obstetric and gynecologic services specified in paragraph (a) from obstetricians and gynecologists in the enrollee's network without a referral from, or prior approval through, another physician, the health plan company, or its representatives.

(c) Health plan companies shall not require higher copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other enrollee cost-sharing for direct access.

(d) This section applies only to services described in paragraph (a) that are covered by the enrollee's coverage, but coverage of a preventive health examination for female enrollees must not exclude coverage of a gynecologic examination.

Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 1 is effective January 1, 1998, and applies to coverage issued or renewed on or after that date.

Presented to the governor April 7, 1997

Signed by the governor April 8, 1997, 10:30 a.m.

CHAPTER 27—H.F.No. 265

An act relating to agriculture; clarifying the employment status of certain farm crisis assistance personnel; amending Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 17.03, subdivision 9.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 17.03, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **FARM CRISIS ASSISTANCE FEES; LIABILITY.** (a) The department may charge a fee for farm crisis assistance services it provides to persons outside of the department.

(b) The state is not liable for the actions of persons under contract with the department who provide farm crisis assistance services as part of their contractual duties. Persons who provide farm crisis assistance are not subject to liability for their actions that are within the scope of their contract. The immunity from liability in this subdivision is in addition to and not a limitation of immunity otherwise accorded to the state and its contractors under law.

(c) Fees collected by the department under this subdivision must be deposited in the general fund.

(d) Persons under contract with the department to provide farm crisis assistance are not employees of the state.

Presented to the governor April 10, 1997

Signed by the governor April 11, 1997, 9:50 a.m.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.