



**Fact Sheet
HB 09-1004**

**CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ALL-INCLUSIVE
CARE FOR THE ELDERLY TO EMPLOY PHYSICIANS**

Sponsors: Representative Dennis Apuan and Senator Betty Boyd

Bill Summary:

- Allows a PACE organization to employ a physician as long as the PACE organization does not limit or exercise control over the physician's independent judgment and does not offer the physician a percentage of the fees charged to patients or other financial incentives.
- Requires the PACE organization that employs physicians to annually report to the department of public health and environment.

Overview:

- PACE organizations provide services to low-income, nursing home eligible elderly through a risk-based, managed care system that combines Medicaid and Medicare dollars to provide comprehensive, individualized care plans designed to keep medically needy, frail adults in their homes and out of hospitals and nursing homes. PACE organizations provide services in the Denver Metro, Colorado Springs and Montrose areas.
- PACE clients are clinically complex. The average age of a PACE client is 80 years old. Their median survival is 30 months - nearly identical to institutionalized nursing home patients.
- There is a tremendous shortage of geriatricians in Colorado and the United States. For the year 2000, the Alliance for Aging Research estimated that the United States needed about 20,000 geriatricians to provide adequate health care to older adults. At the time, however, there are only 9,000 practicing geriatricians.
- PACE providers are expanding to serve other areas of the state. Total Longterm Care, the state's premier PACE provider will be expanding to Pueblo in the fall. Expansion to less urban areas creates even more difficulty in finding qualified physicians to serve the frail and elderly enrolled in PACE organizations.
- In order to staff PACE centers, PACE organizations currently contract with individual physicians. Many of these physicians have expressed interest in being employees of PACE organizations and benefiting from health insurance coverage for themselves and their families.
- PACE organizations would like the option to employ physicians directly, training them in the specialized needs of PACE clients and being able to retain their services through providing benefits and training.

**Please Support PACE organizations, Doctors and the Elderly
Support HB 1004**

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