



**SENATOR JOHN PIPPY
2007-2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
PRIME SPONSORED BILL SUMMARY**

SENATE BILL 1232

The intent of this bill is to prevent competitive disparity among vision benefit plans. This legislation will attempt to restore a "level playing field" in the optical industry, and ensure both patient freedom of choice when selecting a provider and providers' freedom of choice to choose materials, fabrication and source of products and a uniform provider contract to allow a fair and equitable provider reimbursement.

Currently, some vision plans create a competitive disparity between independent eye care providers and corporate competitors through a policy of creating different levels of provider participation. Independent providers are compelled to use the vision benefit plan's laboratories and products while some commercial optical providers and large groups are permitted to use their own laboratories and their own products.