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**HB 96 Explanation of Changes Version I to G**

*"An Act establishing the Home Care Employment Standards Advisory Board; relating to payment for personal care services; and providing for an effective date."*

**Section 1** amends AS 44.29 by adding new sections

*Sec. 44.29.940 Publication of Reports*

In version B, on page 5, lines 11 through 23 are deleted and then replaced with,

“(c) The department shall take the recommendations for the board into consideration when setting rates for covered services. If the rate set by the department for a covered service differs significantly from the rate recommended by the board, the commissioner shall notify the board and the chair of each legislative committee having jurisdiction of health and social services in writing.”

With this change, the report delivery is simplified, and there is no approval process by the commissioner. Instead, the report goes directly to the body tasked with setting the new rate, and if there is a discrepancy between the board recommendation and the new rate, the relevant legislative bodies are informed.

*Sec. 44.29.945 Definitions*

Amends the definition for “covered provider” on page 6, lines 2&3. It deletes the words “enrolled with” and replaces them with “certified by.”

The intent is to clarify that "covered provider" references homecare agencies, rather than caregivers themselves. We are changing the word from "enrolled", which could theoretically apply to both agencies and individual caregivers, to "certified", which can apply only to an agency in this context.