

House passes Pollock’s bill regarding dental benefit plans

BY STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky House of Representatives passed House Bill 210, sponsored by Rep. Michael “Sarge” Pollock of Campbellsville, which would establish clear guidelines for dental benefit plans concerning the assignment of benefits.

“This bill is about making sure providers get paid directly and in a timely manner, while reducing the administrative burden and financial uncertainty for both dentists and patients,” Pollock said in a statement released by the House Majority Caucus after the bill passed last Thursday.

“In requiring insurers to honor a patient’s assignment of benefits, we’re confirming that payments go straight to the provider delivering care, where they’re intended.”

HB 210 would require dental insurers to honor patients’ written assignment of benefits, signed by both the patient and provider, ensuring that payments go directly to the provider rather than the policyholder.

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The measure also would allow for assignments to be revoked by the covered person, with or without the provider’s consent, in writing to the insurer.

A revocation is effective upon receipt by the insurer and is only effective for charges incurred on

or after the date the it is received by the insurer.

“House Bill 210 establishes clear and fair guidelines for dental benefit plans, giving patients more control over their insurance, and helping to ensure the providers in our state aren’t left chasing payments,” Pollock added.

“Our goal is to create a more efficient coverage framework that benefits both providers and their patients.”

House Bill 210 now heads to the state Senate for consideration.

GRANT

FROM PAGE B5

“KLC proudly provides these grants to Kentucky cities to help them improve the quality of life for their citizens and employees while reducing liability,”

KLC Executive Director/CEO J.D. Chaney said.

KLC Insurance is the commonwealth’s largest municipal insurance program.

The agency helps members increase public safety with proactive programs and services and provides affordable liability, proper-

ty, workers’ compensation, and other municipal insurance products.

The Kentucky League of Cities also offers employee benefits programs, legislative advocacy, financial and municipal law services, training, community development, and other resources that serve cities.



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor’s Report

The Honorable David R. Daugherty, Marion County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chad Mattingly, Marion County Clerk
Members of the Marion County Fiscal Court
Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement
Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the County Clerk of Marion County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Marion County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Marion County Clerk, as of December 31, 2023, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Marion County Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Marion County Clerk on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Marion County Clerk’s ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Marion County Clerk’s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Marion County Clerk’s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 8, 2024, on our consideration of the Marion County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Marion County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

October 8, 2024

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts’ website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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