Overview

This bill allows employers to provide workers' compensation health benefits through coverage that also provides benefits that are in addition to those required. The bill also requires the commissioner of human services to contract with nursing facilities to offer 24-hour coverage.

Section

1. **Medical, psychological, chiropractic, podiatric, surgical, hospital.** Amends § 176.135, subd. 1. Allows employers to provide the treatment and supplies required to be provided under workers' compensation health benefits through insurance coverage that also provides health care benefits that are in addition to those required.

2. **24-hour coverage.** Amends § 256B.434, by adding subd. 18. Allows the commissioner of human services, beginning July 1, 1999, to contract with nursing facilities taking part in the alternative payment demonstration project to offer coordinated or integrated 24-hour coverage of health care needs usually provided under a combination of health insurance and workers' compensation insurance coverage. Specifies types of coverage that can be provided and requires coverage to be in compliance with existing laws regulating health insurance and workers' compensation insurance. Allows the commissioner to provide grants, within the limits of appropriations, to nursing facilities to work with insurers to develop a 24-hour coverage product and to offer health care insurance to workers in order to participate in a contract to coordinate or integrate coverage.

3. **Appropriation.** Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the next biennium, for purposes of section 1.