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 DIGEST

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SB 106 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law requires any health insurance issuer that offers health coverage plans in La. that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to provide coverage for certain severe obesity treatments.

Proposed law requires the covered insured to be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for bariatric surgery coverage. Proposed law provides an issuer may request a covered person successfully complete a pre-operative period prior to bariatric surgery.

Proposed law provides an issuer may restrict services for bariatric surgery to certain facilities.

Proposed law provides that issuers may require prior authorization for bariatric surgery.

Proposed law provides this coverage does not apply to injectable drugs to lower glucose levels or any other prescribed weight loss drugs. Proposed law provides coverage for bariatric surgery may be limited to once per lifetime.

Proposed law requires the prescribing physician to issue a written order verifying certain information.

Proposed law defines "body mass index", "health coverage plan", and "severe obesity".

Proposed law applies to any new policy, contract, program, or health coverage plan issued on and after Jan. 1, 2025, and requires any policy, contract, or health coverage plan in effect prior to Jan. 1, 2025, to convert to conform to proposed law on or before the renewal date, but no later than Jan. 1, 2026.

Proposed law requires certain provisions of proposed law to apply to health insurance issuers offering health coverage plans in this state to the extent services are covered by the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Benchmark Plan in accordance with state and federal law.

Proposed law requires LDH to evaluate bariatric surgery, pre-operative psychological screening and counseling, behavior modification, nutritional counseling, and post-operative follow-up, overview, and counseling of dietary exercise, and lifestyle changes for coverage by the EHB Benchmark Plan during its next review of the plan.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 22:1047)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Insurance to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Removes weight loss and exercise regimens from the list of treatments.
3. Provides an issuer may require certain pre-operative treatment prior to bariatric surgery.

4. Provides an issuer may restrict services for bariatric surgery to certain facilities.
5. Provides an issuer may require prior authorization for bariatric surgery.
6. Provides this coverage does not apply to injectable drugs to lower glucose levels or other drugs prescribed for weight loss.
7. Provides bariatric treatment may be limited to once per lifetime.
8. Provides for applicability.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Technical amendments

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill:

1. Require certain provisions of proposed law to apply to health insurance issuers offering health coverage plans in this state to the extent services are covered by the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan in accordance with state and federal law.
2. Require LDH to evaluate bariatric surgery, certain pre-operative screening and counseling, behavior modification, nutritional counseling, and post-operative follow-up, overview, and counseling and lifestyle changes for coverage by the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan during its next review of the plan.
3. Make technical corrections.