

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 204

BY SENATOR TALBOT

INSURANCE POLICIES. Provides for health insurance coverage of cancer treatments.  
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 22:1054.1, relative to health insurance coverage for cancer treatments; to  
3 prohibit denial of coverage in certain circumstances; to require coverage of  
4 prescription drugs that target a specific mutation for a minimum initial period; to  
5 require a physician's certification for continued coverage; to provide for an effective  
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 22:1054.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§1054.1. Requirement for coverage of cancer treatment targeting a specific**  
10 **genetic mutation**

11 **A. No health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state**  
12 **shall deny coverage for a medically necessary drug prescribed by a physician**  
13 **on the sole basis that the drug is not indicated for the location in the body of the**  
14 **patient's cancer if the drug is approved by the United States Food and Drug**  
15 **Administration for the treatment of the specific mutation of the patient's**  
16 **cancer.**

17 **B.(1) Any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this**

1 state shall include coverage for a minimum initial treatment period of not less  
2 than three months for a medically necessary drug prescribed by a physician  
3 that is not indicated for the location in the body of the patient's cancer if the  
4 drug is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the  
5 treatment of the specific mutation of the patient's cancer.

6 (2) The health coverage plan shall continue to provide coverage of the  
7 prescribed drug after the initial treatment period provided for in Paragraph (1)  
8 of this Subsection if the treating physician certifies that the prescribed drug is  
9 necessary for the treatment of the patient's cancer.

10 C. For purposes of this Section, "health coverage plan" means any  
11 hospital, health, or medical expense insurance policy, hospital or medical  
12 service contract, employee welfare benefit plan, contract, or other agreement  
13 with a health maintenance organization or a preferred provider organization,  
14 health and accident insurance policy, or any other insurance contract of this  
15 type in this state, including a group insurance plan, a self-insurance plan, and  
16 the Office of Group Benefits programs. "Health coverage plan" shall not  
17 include a plan providing coverage for excepted benefits as defined in R.S.  
18 22:1061, limited benefit health insurance plans, and short-term policies that  
19 have a term of less than twelve months.

20 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
21 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
22 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
24 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl B. Cooper.

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Proposed law prohibits a health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state from denying coverage for a medically necessary drug prescribed by a physician on the sole basis that the drug is not indicated for the location in the body of the patient's cancer if the

drug is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of the specific mutation of the patient's cancer.

Proposed law requires any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state to include coverage for a minimum initial treatment period of at least three months for a medically necessary drug prescribed by a physician that is not indicated for the location in the body of the patient's cancer if the drug is approved by the FDA for the treatment of the specific mutation of the patient's cancer.

Proposed law requires the health coverage plan to continue to provide coverage of the prescribed drug after the initial treatment period if the treating physician certifies that the prescribed drug is necessary for the treatment of the patient's cancer.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 22:1054.1)