

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 150

2021 Regular Session

Barrow

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM. Requires the office of group benefits to cover bariatric surgery techniques for the treatment of severe obesity. (8/1/21)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Makes technical corrections.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

SB 150 Reengrossed

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Proposed law defines "severe obesity" as a body mass index (BMI) of at least 40 kilograms per meter squared or a BMI of at least 35 kilograms per meter squared along with a comorbidity or existing medical condition such as hypertension, cardiopulmonary conditions, sleep apnea, or diabetes.

Proposed law requires the office of group benefits (OGB) to offer a provision stating that benefits shall be payable for the treatment of severe obesity through gastric bypass surgery, sleeve gastrectomy, duodenal switch, single anastomosis duodeno-ileostomy with sleeve, or other methods recognized by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery as effective for the long-term reversal of severe obesity. Proposed law requires that the employee receiving the benefit have a BMI of at least 40 or a BMI of at least 35 with two or more comorbidities.

Proposed law limits the benefits to 300 surgeries per year and applies only to active or retired state employees who have participated in an OGB self-funded health plan for at least one year prior to the surgery or other treatment method and prior authorization. Proposed law requires the employee to comply with all OGB requirements during the pre-operative period which shall be no less than four months.

Proposed law provides that the benefits established therein do not include coverage for skin removal surgery.

Proposed law provides that the OGB benefit will be restricted to services provided in facilities holding accreditation by the American College of Surgeons and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery's Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program.

Proposed law stipulates that the coverage of bariatric surgery provided for in proposed law shall require prior authorization.

(Adds R.S. 42:860)

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