

SENATE BILL NO. 285

BY SENATORS GARY SMITH AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 22:1060.7, relative to prescriptions for chronic pain; to prohibit the denial of  
3 coverage for a nonopioid prescription in favor of an opioid prescription; to provide  
4 with respect to opioid prescriptions deemed medically necessary and prescribed by  
5 a licensed physician; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 22:1060.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§1060.7. Prescription medication for chronic pain**

9 **A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, when a**  
10 **licensed physician prescribes a nonopioid medication for the treatment of**  
11 **chronic pain, it shall be unlawful for a health insurance issuer to deny coverage**  
12 **of the nonopioid prescription drug in favor of an opioid prescription drug.**

13 **B. When an opioid prescription is deemed medically necessary and**  
14 **prescribed by a licensed physician, it shall be unlawful for an insurer to deny**  
15 **a prescribed medication and attempt to substitute an alternative medication**  
16 **that requires any of the following:**

17 **(1) An increased number of pills per prescription.**

18 **(2) A higher Drug Enforcement Administration schedule medication**  
19 **than the one prescribed.**

20 **(3) The substitution of an extended release medication that does not have**

1            defined abuse deterrent properties for a prescription of a medication that does  
2            have defined abuse deterrent properties.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_