

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 314

BY SENATOR BARROW

GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM. Requires the state Office of Group Benefits to cover bariatric surgery techniques for the treatment of severe obesity. (7/1/20)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 42:855, relative to the Office of Group Benefits; to require coverage for the  
3 treatment of morbid obesity; to define morbid obesity and body mass index; to  
4 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 42:855 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§855. Morbid obesity; coverage required**

8 **A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that obesity is a significant**  
9 **health problem affecting hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents. Morbid**  
10 **obesity increases the mortality rate more than threefold, causes physical and**  
11 **emotional disability, and is often associated with comorbid health conditions,**  
12 **including hypertension, cardiopulmonary conditions, and diabetes, all of which**  
13 **compound the impact of obesity on longevity and quality of life. Obese**  
14 **Louisiana residents are more likely to have diabetes and high blood pressure**  
15 **than those who are not obese. Therapeutic interventions can alter the course**  
16 **and severity of obesity and morbid obesity has successfully been treated through**  
17 **established surgical treatments.**



shall be payable for the treatment of morbid obesity through gastric bypass surgery or other methods recognized by the National Institutes of Health as effective for the long-term reversal of morbid obesity.

Proposed law provides that the coverage required pursuant to proposed law for bariatric surgery shall be limited to facilities of surgical services that are accredited by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society for Metabolic Bariatric Surgery as a comprehensive bariatric facility.

Effective July 1, 2020.

(Adds R.S. 42:855)