

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 578

2023 Regular Session

Glover

HEALTH/SMOKING: Provides relative to a smoking cessation benefits program

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds provisions to require certain private health coverage plan providers to add smoking cessation benefits for a minimum of six months.
2. Adds that proposed law applies to private insurance plans and insurance plans offered through the office of group benefits programs.
3. Makes technical corrections.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Abstract: Establishes a program to encourage and assist the public to quit smoking.

Proposed law provides that patients utilizing the medical assistance program, commonly known as Medicaid, may receive any of the smoking cessation benefits if recommended by a physician.

Proposed law provides that any health coverage plan shall provide smoking cessation benefits for a minimum of six months if recommended by a physician.

Proposed law defines terms including "health coverage plan", "medical assistance program", and "smoking cessation benefits".

Proposed law directs the La. Department of Health to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to enforce the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that proposed law requires "health coverage plans", namely private insurance plans and plans offered through the office of group benefits, if in existence prior to January 1, 2024, to offer smoking cessation benefits by January 1, 2025. Any "health coverage plans" issued on or after January 1, 2024 shall offer "smoking cessation benefits".

(Adds R.S. 22:1041.1 and R.S. 40:1295)