

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 106

BY SENATORS BARROW AND EDMONDS

HEALTH CARE. Provides relative to obesity treatment. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 22:1047, relative to obesity treatment; to require coverage for severe obesity
3 treatments; to provide for requirements for coverage; to provide for definitions; and
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 22:1047 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§1047. Required coverage for severe obesity treatment**

8 **A. A health insurance issuer offering health coverage plans in this state**
9 **that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits for individuals covered**
10 **under a respective plan shall provide coverage for medically necessary expenses**
11 **for diseases and ailments caused by severe obesity and treatment in accordance**
12 **with this Section.**

13 **B. Treatment shall include but not be limited to bariatric surgery,**
14 **pre-operative psychological screening and counseling, behavior modification,**
15 **weight loss, exercise regimens, nutritional counseling, and post-operative**
16 **follow-up, overview, and counseling of dietary, exercise, and lifestyle changes.**

17 **C. The covered insured shall be at least eighteen years of age to be**

1 eligible for bariatric surgery coverage.

2 D. The prescribing physician shall issue a written order stating that
3 treatment is medically necessary and in accordance with the patient
4 qualifications and treatment standards set forth by the American Society for
5 Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery or the American College of Surgeons.

6 E. For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the
7 following meanings:

8 (1) "Severe obesity" means either of the following:

9 (a) A body mass index equal to or greater than forty kilograms per meter
10 squared.

11 (b) A body mass index equal to or greater than thirty-five kilograms per
12 meter squared along with an associated comorbidity including but not limited
13 to hypertension, cardiopulmonary conditions, sleep apnea, or diabetes.

14 (2) "Body mass index" means a practical marker used to assess the
15 degree of obesity, calculated by dividing the weight in kilograms by the height
16 in meters squared.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

SB 106 Original

DIGEST
2024 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law requires any health insurance issuer that offers health coverage plans in Louisiana that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to provide coverage for certain severe obesity treatments.

Proposed law requires the covered insured to be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for bariatric surgery coverage.

Proposed law requires the prescribing physician to issue a written order verifying certain information.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 22:1047)