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## DIGEST

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HB 370 Original

2019 Regular Session

Stokes

**Abstract:** Prohibits a health insurer from using step therapy or fail first protocols as the basis to restrict any prescription benefit for the treatment of a person with stage-four advanced, metastatic cancer.

Present law requires any health coverage plan which includes prescription benefits as part of its policy or contract, which utilizes step therapy or fail first protocols, and which is issued for delivery, delivered, renewed, or otherwise contracted for in this state on or after Jan. 1, 2011, to comply with the provisions of present law.

Proposed law retains present law but makes technical changes including the removal of a reference to a repealed statute.

Proposed law prohibits a health coverage plan from using step therapy or fail first protocols as the basis to restrict any prescription benefit for the treatment of stage-four advanced, metastatic cancer or associated conditions if the prescribed drug is consistent with best practices for the treatment of stage-four advanced, metastatic cancer or associated conditions and supported by peer-reviewed, evidenced-based medical literature.

Proposed law defines "stage-four advanced, metastatic cancer" as cancer that has spread from the lymph nodes or other areas or parts of the body.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 22:1053(A) and (D); Adds R.S. 22:1053(E))