

SENATE BILL NO. 155

BY SENATOR TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVES BERAULT, CARRIER, CHASSION, DEWITT, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, HORTON, ILLG, KERNER, LAFLEUR, LYONS, MACK AND ZERINGUE

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AN ACT

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To enact R.S. 22:1077.6, relative to dental care and cancer treatment; to provide for healthcare coverage for certain medically necessary dental procedures as a result of cancer treatment; to clarify healthcare insurers are not required to provide coverage for routine preventative dental care; to provide for applicability; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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Section 1. R.S. 22:1077.6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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**§1077.6. Coverage for dental services for cancer patients**

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**A.(1) Except as provided in Subsections B and C of this Section, an insurer offering a health coverage plan in this state shall provide coverage for evaluation, imaging, clinical examination, and dental extractions that are medically necessary to reduce the risk of infection, eliminate infection, or treat tooth loss or decay as part of a pre-cancer treatment screening for an insured who has been diagnosed with cancer.**

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**(2) The dental services shall be covered when performed as part of a pre-treatment medical clearance protocol for insureds scheduled to undergo cancer treatment.**

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**B. A healthcare insurer is not required to provide coverage for routine preventive dental care, including cleaning and sealants.**

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**C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a plan providing coverage for excepted benefits as defined in R.S. 22:1061, limited benefit health insurance plans, and short-term policies that have a term of less than twelve months.**

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Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to any new policy, contract,

1 program, or health coverage plan issued on or after January 1, 2027. Any policy, contract,  
2 or plan in effect prior to January 1, 2027, shall convert to conform to the provisions of this  
3 Act on or before the renewal date thereof, but in no event later than January 1, 2028.

4 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
8 effective on the day following such approval.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_