

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1626

C 299 L 23

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning coverage for colorectal screening tests under medical assistance programs.

Sponsors: Representatives Bronoske, Rude, Ryu, Griffey, Callan, Fosse, Senn, Macri, Pollet, Graham, Leavitt and Reed.

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness

House Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is a 16-member panel of experts that receives administrative, research, and technical support from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The USPSTF makes recommendations on clinical preventive services on a graded scale. Under the federal Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion plans must cover preventive care services given an A or B rating by the USPSTF and traditional Medicaid plans that elect to cover those services receive a 1 percent increase in their federal matching funds for those services, however, as of May 2023, the authority of the USPSTF has been the subject of ongoing litigation.

There are two main types of colorectal cancer screening tests: stool-based tests and direct visualization tests. Stool-based tests may either identify blood in the stool or cancer biomarkers shed from the lining of the colon in the stool to detect cancer. Direct visualization tests view the inside of the colon and the rectum through various methods, including colonoscopy, computerized tomography colonography, and flexible sigmoidoscopy. The USPSTF gives both types of colorectal cancer screenings an "A" rating for adults aged 50 to 75 years and a "B" rating for adults aged 45 to 49 years.

Summary:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Health Care Authority must require coverage under medical assistance programs for noninvasive preventive colorectal cancer screening tests that have a grade of either A or B from the United States Preventive Services Task Force and require coverage for colonoscopies performed as a result of a positive test result.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 95 0

Senate 39 9

Effective: July 23, 2023