

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5498

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, February 21, 2025

Title: An act relating to contraceptive coverage.

Brief Description: Concerning contraceptive coverage.

Sponsors: Senators Alvarado, Slatter, Bateman, Cleveland, Frame, Lias, Lovelett, Nobles, Pedersen, Saldaña, Salomon, Stanford, Trudeau, Valdez and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/18/25, 2/21/25 [DP, DNP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Applies the requirement that health plans reimburse for a 12-month supply of contraceptives to all prescriptions, instead of only refills.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Orwall, Vice Chair; Muzzall, Ranking Member; Bateman, Chapman, Harris, Holy, Riccelli, Robinson and Slatter.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Christian.

Staff: Greg Attanasio (786-7410)

Background: Health plans are required to cover contraceptive drugs without cost sharing. A health plan must provide reimbursement for a 12-month supply of contraceptive drugs obtained at one time by the enrollee, unless the enrollee requests a smaller supply or the prescriber instructs the enrollee to receive a smaller supply. The health plan must allow the

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enrollee to receive the contraceptive drugs on-site at the provider's office, if available. The 12-month supply requirement applies only to refills of contraceptive drugs, not the original prescription.

Summary of Bill: The 12-month supply requirement is applied to all prescriptions of contraceptive drugs, not just refills.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Access to birth control lowers the risk of unintended pregnancy. The bill does not require a patient to accept a 12-month supply or require a provider to prescribe a 12-month supply, but it provides the option.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Emily Alvarado, Prime Sponsor; Nicole Kern, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.