



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Committee Statement
LB 825

Hearing Date: February 26, 2001
Committee On: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Introducers: (Foley)
Title: Require insurance coverage for reproductive health care

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 5 | Yes | Senators Tyson, Aguilar, Bruning, Jensen, Kremer |
| 2 | No | Senators Landis, Bourne |
| 1 | Present, not voting | Senator Smith |
| | Absent | |
-

Proponents:

Senator Mike Foley
Michelle Keuten
Scott Vermaas
Edward Swotek
Barb Shimerdla
Dr. Paul Hayes
Amy Schenk
Mary Goodwater
Linda Latture
Angelica Kluthe
Denise Sears
Julie Rolf
Rita Newell
Bobbie Feldhaus
Jennifer Larson

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self

Opponents:

Randy Boldt
Dr. Tim Raney
Galen Ullstrom
James Watson
Jan McKenzie

Representing:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NE
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NE
Mutual of Omaha
United Healthcare
NE Insurance Federation

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 825 (Foley) would enact a new section to provide that any individual or group sickness and accident insurance policy or subscriber contract, any hospital, medical, or surgical expense-incurred policy, and any self-funded employee benefit plan to the extent not preempted by federal law shall not exclude coverage for reproductive health care. The bill would define “reproductive health care” as the diagnosis, maintenance, and treatment of the natural reproductive process of the human body, and would further provide that the term does not include abortion, artificial reproductive technologies, or contraceptive devices.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendments would strike the original bill and would insert new provisions:

1. The committee amendments would provide that the Legislature finds that male or female reproductive disease processes are serious health matters that need to be properly diagnosed, maintained, and treated, and that refusal to cover basic reproductive health care procedures is discriminatory.

2. The committee amendments would provide (a) that any individual or group sickness and accident insurance policy or subscriber contract, any hospital, medical, or surgical expense-incurred policy, and any self-funded employee benefit plan to the extent not preempted by federal law shall not exclude coverage for reproductive health care, as defined, and (b) that medical insurance claims may not be denied on the basis of fertility or infertility.

3. The committee amendments would provide that “reproductive health care” means the diagnosis, maintenance, and treatment of diseases, disorders, or dysfunctions associated with the reproductive process of the human body.

The committee amendments would provide that “reproductive health care” does not include (a) abortion, (b) contraceptive devices, medications, or procedures, or (c) assisted reproductive technologies. This part of the committee amendments also sets out a nonexclusive list of “assisted reproductive technologies.”

Senator David M. Landis, Chairperson