



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 324

Chairperson: Senator David M. Landis
Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance
Date of Hearing: February 27, 2001

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 324 will ensure that all the necessary costs associated with bone marrow transplants will be covered by health insurance, including the costs associated with the donors.

The bill requires that health insurance policies which cover treatment for cancer must include coverage for bone marrow transplant procedures if the procedures are determined to be accepted within the appropriate oncological specialty and are not considered experimental by rules and regulations authorized under the bill. The coverage shall include costs associated with the donor-patient to the same extent and limitations as costs associated with the insured, except the reasonable costs of searching for a donor may be limited to immediate family members and the National Bone Marrow Donor Program.

An advisory panel is appointed by the Chief Medical Officer. The panel shall consist of two oncologists, two medical school representatives, a consumer, a representative of the Health Insurance Association of America, and three health insurance representatives. The advisory panel shall recommend to the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure rules and regulations to specify procedures that are accepted in the appropriate oncological specialty and are not considered experimental. The panel shall review scientific evidence and take into account information from the federal Agency for Health Care Policy, the National Cancer Institute, the National Academy of Sciences, Health Care Financing Administration, Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The bill applies to policies, plans, or contracts delivered, issued, or renewed in this state on and after the effective date of the bill.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Deborah S. Suttle