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H.620

Introduced by Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Briglin of Thetford,
Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Copeland-Hanzas
of Bradford, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier,
Komline of Dorset, Krowinski of Burlington, Mrowicki of
Putney, Pearson of Burlington, Sibia of Dover, Stevens of
Waterbury, Till of Jericho, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; health insurance; contraception

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to specify the
contraceptive products and services that must be included in health insurance
plans, as well as restrictions on cost-sharing for contraceptive services. It
would also direct the Department of Vermont Health Access to establish
value-based payments for the insertion and removal of long-acting reversible
contraceptives comparable to those for oral contraceptives.

An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for
contraceptives

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4099c is amended to read:

3 § 4099c. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY IN HEALTH INSURANCE
4 COVERAGE

5 ~~(a) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for outpatient~~
6 ~~contraceptive services including sterilizations, and shall provide coverage for~~
7 ~~the purchase of all prescription contraceptives and prescription contraceptive~~
8 ~~devices approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, except that a~~
9 ~~health insurance plan that does not provide coverage of prescription drugs is~~
10 ~~not required to provide coverage of prescription contraceptives and~~
11 ~~prescription contraceptive devices. A health insurance plan providing~~
12 ~~coverage required under this section shall not establish any rate, term or~~
13 ~~condition that places a greater financial burden on an insured or beneficiary for~~
14 ~~access to contraceptive services, prescription contraceptives and prescription~~
15 ~~contraceptive devices than for access to treatment, prescriptions or devices for~~
16 ~~any other health condition.~~

17 ~~(b)~~ As used in this section, “health insurance plan” means any individual or
18 group health insurance policy, any hospital or medical service corporation or
19 health maintenance organization subscriber contract, or any other health
20 benefit plan offered, issued, or renewed for any person in this state State by a
21 health insurer, as defined by 18 V.S.A. § 9402. The term shall not include

1 benefit plans providing coverage for specific disease or other limited benefit
2 coverage.

3 (b) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for at least the following
4 products and services:

5 (1) All contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products for women
6 approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including all
7 FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products that are
8 available over-the-counter, as prescribed by an enrollee's health care provider,
9 subject to the following conditions:

10 (A) If there is a therapeutic equivalent of an FDA-approved
11 contraceptive drug, device, or product, the health insurance plan shall provide
12 coverage for the original FDA-approved contraceptive drug, device, or product
13 or one or more of its therapeutic equivalents, or both.

14 (B) If the enrollee's health care provider determines a covered
15 contraceptive drug, device, or product to be medically inadvisable for the
16 enrollee, the health insurance plan shall defer to the provider's determination
17 and judgment and shall provide coverage for an alternate contraceptive drug,
18 device, or product prescribed by the provider for the enrollee.

19 (2) Voluntary sterilization procedures for men and women.

20 (3) Patient education and counseling regarding the appropriate use of
21 contraception.

1 (4) Clinical services associated with providing the drugs, devices,
2 products, and procedures covered under this section and related follow-up
3 services, including management of side effects, counseling for continued
4 adherence, and device insertion and removal.

5 (c)(1) A health insurance plan shall not impose a deductible, coinsurance,
6 co-payment, or other cost-sharing requirement on the coverage provided
7 pursuant to this section.

8 (2) Benefits provided to an enrollee under this section shall be the same
9 for the enrollee's covered spouse and other covered dependents.

10 (3) Except as otherwise authorized under this section, a health insurance
11 plan shall not impose any restrictions or delays on the coverage required by
12 this section.

13 (d) A health insurance plan shall not limit or otherwise restrict coverage
14 with respect to a contraceptive item or service that is required to be covered
15 under this section based on an individual's sex assigned at birth, gender
16 identity, or recorded sex or gender with the health insurance plan. If an
17 individual's health care provider determines that a contraceptive item or
18 service that is required to be covered under this section is medically
19 appropriate for the individual and the individual satisfies other applicable
20 coverage requirements, the health insurance plan shall provide coverage as

1 required under this section regardless of the individual's sex assigned at birth,
2 gender identity, or recorded sex or gender with the health insurance plan.

3 (e) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for a supply of
4 contraceptives intended to last over a 13-month duration, which may be
5 furnished or dispensed all at once or over the course of the 13 months at the
6 discretion of the health care provider. The health insurance plan shall
7 reimburse a health care provider or dispensing entity per unit for furnishing or
8 dispensing a supply of contraceptives intended to last for 13 months.

9 Sec. 2. VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS FOR LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE

10 CONTRACEPTIVES

11 The Department of Vermont Health Access shall establish and implement
12 value-based payments to health care providers for the insertion and removal of
13 long-acting reversible contraceptives. The payments shall reflect the high
14 efficacy rate of long-acting reversible contraceptives in reducing unintended
15 pregnancies and the correlating decrease in costs to the State as a result of
16 fewer unintended pregnancies. The payments shall create parity between the
17 fees for insertion and removal of long-acting reversible contraceptives and
18 those for oral contraceptives.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

20 (a) Sec. 2 and this section shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

1 (b) Sec. 1 shall take effect on October 1, 2016 and shall apply to health
2 insurance plans on or after October 1, 2016 on such date as a health insurer
3 issues, offers, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later than
4 October 1, 2017.