

1 H.726

2 Introduced by Representative Ode of Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; orthotics; spina bifida

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health
7 insurance plans to cover custom foot orthotics for beneficiaries with spina
8 bifida.

9 An act relating to insurance coverage for custom foot orthotics for
10 beneficiaries with spina bifida

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

12 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4088I is added to read:

13 § 4088I. CUSTOM FOOT ORTHOTICS FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS

14 (a) As used in this section, “health insurance plan” means any individual or
15 group health insurance policy, any hospital or medical service corporation or
16 health maintenance organization subscriber contract, or any other health
17 benefit plan offered, issued, or renewed for any person in this State by a health
18 insurer, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402. The term shall not include benefit
19 plans providing coverage for specific disease or other limited benefit coverage.

1 (b) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for custom-fabricated
2 foot orthotics for a patient with spina bifida when prescribed by a physician
3 licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, a podiatrist licensed under
4 26 V.S.A. chapter 7, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under
5 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, or a physician assistant licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter
6 31. The coverage shall include replacement of an orthotic device under at least
7 the following circumstances:

8 (1) after the orthotic device's normal life span;

9 (2) following the orthotic device's malfunction; and

10 (3) as needed based on changes in the size or shape of the beneficiary's
11 foot.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021 and shall apply to all health
14 insurance plans issued on and after January 1, 2021 on such date as a health
15 insurer offers, issues, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later
16 than January 1, 2022.