

ACT No. 119

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 347

BY REPRESENTATIVES STOKES, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HENRY, HILFERTY, HILL, HOFFMANN, HORTON, HUVAL, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, LACOMBE, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, PEARSON, POPE, PUGH, PYLANT, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, TALBOT, THOMAS, TURNER, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS ALARIO, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CHABERT, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1077(B) and (F)(1) and to enact R.S. 22:1028.1 and 1077.2,
3 relative to health insurance coverage for breast cancer; to require coverage for
4 diagnostic imaging at the same level of coverage provided for screening
5 mammograms; to define key terms; to provide for applicability; to provide for an
6 effective date; to require coverage for a patient's choice of medical and surgical
7 treatments following a diagnosis of breast cancer; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 22:1077(B) and (F)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 22:1028.1 and 1077.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1028.1. Required coverage for diagnostic imaging

12 A.(1) Any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state
13 shall include coverage for diagnostic imaging at the same level of coverage provided
14 for the minimum mammography examination pursuant to R.S. 22:1028.

1 (1) Breast cancer was the most common cancer in Louisiana women from
2 2010 to 2014.

3 (2) Between 2010 and 2014, the average annual incidence rate of female
4 breast cancer in Louisiana ranked twenty-ninth in the nation and approximately three
5 thousand women will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year in Louisiana.

6 (3) The Carter Stokes Oral and Written Summary of Breast Cancer
7 Treatment Alternatives and Access to Breast Reconstruction Surgery Information
8 Law, R.S. 40:1103.1 et seq., requires the treating physician or surgeon to inform a
9 patient diagnosed with any form of breast cancer of the alternative efficacious
10 methods of treatment by discussing the alternative methods of treatment with the
11 patient.

12 (4) Each woman facing breast cancer has to decide which treatment is right
13 for her.

14 (5) Helping patients to maximize their autonomy in breast cancer
15 decision-making is an important aspect of patient-centered care.

16 (6) Shared decision-making is a strategy that aims to maximize patient
17 autonomy by integrating the values and preferences of the patient with the
18 biomedical expertise of the physician.

19 B. The purpose of this Section is to stress that decisions regarding the
20 treatment procedures to be performed following a diagnosis of breast cancer shall be
21 made solely by the patient in consultation with attending physicians, and to clarify
22 that all levels of medical and surgical treatment as provided for in this Section are
23 medically necessary and shall not be excluded from coverage. Consulting physicians
24 shall consider recognized, evidence-based standards such as the guidelines of the
25 National Comprehensive Cancer Network in making treatment recommendations.

26 C.(1) Any health benefit plan offered by a health insurance issuer that
27 provides medical and surgical benefits with respect to a partial mastectomy or a full
28 unilateral or bilateral mastectomy shall provide coverage for the medical and surgical
29 treatment and corresponding breast reconstruction chosen by a patient diagnosed
30 with breast cancer in consultation with the attending physician regardless of whether

1 a partial mastectomy or a full unilateral or bilateral mastectomy is chosen by the
2 patient and physician.

3 (2) No health benefit plan offered by a health insurance issuer that provides
4 medical and surgical benefits with respect to a partial mastectomy or a full unilateral
5 or bilateral mastectomy shall deny coverage for those surgical procedures, including
6 corresponding breast reconstruction, chosen by a patient diagnosed with breast
7 cancer in consultation with the attending physician.

8 D. For purposes of this Section:

9 (1) "Breast reconstruction" has the same meaning as provided in R.S.
10 22:1077.

11 (2) "Health benefit plan" means any hospital, health, or medical expense
12 insurance policy, hospital or medical service contract, employee welfare benefit plan,
13 contract, or other agreement with a health maintenance organization or a preferred
14 provider organization, health and accident insurance policy, or any other insurance
15 contract of this type in this state, including a group insurance plan, a self-insurance
16 plan, and the Office of Group Benefits programs. "Health benefit plan" shall not
17 include a plan providing coverage for excepted benefits as defined in R.S. 22:1061,
18 limited benefit health insurance plans, and short-term policies that have a term of
19 less than twelve months.

20 (3) "Health insurance issuer" means an entity subject to the insurance laws
21 and regulations of this state, or subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner, that
22 contracts or offers to contract to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse
23 any of the costs of healthcare services, including through a health benefit plan as
24 defined in this Section, and shall include a sickness and accident insurance company,
25 a health maintenance organization, a preferred provider organization, or any similar
26 entity, or any other entity providing a plan of health insurance or health benefits.

27 Section 2.(A) This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2021.

28 (B) This Act shall apply to any new policy, contract, program, or health coverage
29 plan issued on and after January 1, 2021. Any policy, contract, or health coverage plan in

1 effect prior to January 1, 2021, shall convert to conform to the provisions of this Act on or
2 before the renewal date, but no later than January 1, 2022.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____