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The original instrument was prepared by Martha Hess. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Brandi Cannon.

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SB 150 Engrossed DIGEST Barrow  
2021 Regular Session

Proposed law defines "severe obesity" as a body mass index (BMI) of at least 40 or a BMI of at least 35 along with comorbidity or existing medical conditions such as hypertension, cardiopulmonary conditions, sleep apnea, or diabetes.

Proposed law requires the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) to offer a provision stating that benefits shall be payable for the treatment of severe obesity through gastric bypass surgery, sleeve gastrectomy, duodenal switch, SADI, or other methods recognized by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery as effective for the long-term reversal of severe obesity.

Proposed law limits the benefits to 300 surgeries per year and applies only to active or retired state employees who have participated in an OGB health plan for at least one year prior to the surgery or other treatment. Proposed law requires the employee to comply with all OGB requirements during the pre-operative period.

Proposed law provides that the benefits do not include coverage for skin removal surgery.

Proposed law provides that the OGB programs shall require hospitals and physicians to obtain and maintain accreditation from The American College of Surgeons Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program.

Proposed law provides that the coverage of bariatric surgery shall require prior authorization.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 42:860)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Limits the applicability to an active state employee or retired state employee who has participated in an OGB health plan for at least one year prior to the surgery.
2. Requires the employee to comply with all OGB requirements during the pre-operative period.

3. Limits the benefits to a maximum of 300 surgeries per year.
4. Provides that proposed law does not include coverage or other benefits for skin removal surgery.
5. Makes technical changes.