

SENATE BILL NO. 155

BY SENATOR TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVES BERAULT, CARRIER, CHASSION, DEWITT, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, HORTON, ILLG, KERNER, LAFLEUR, LYONS, MACK AND ZERINGUE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 22:1077.6, relative to dental care and cancer treatment; to provide for
3 healthcare coverage for certain medically necessary dental procedures as a result of
4 cancer treatment; to clarify healthcare insurers are not required to provide coverage
5 for routine preventative dental care; to provide for applicability; to provide for an
6 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 22:1077.6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§1077.6. Coverage for dental services for cancer patients**

10 **A.(1) Except as provided in Subsections B and C of this Section, an**
11 **insurer offering a health coverage plan in this state shall provide coverage for**
12 **evaluation, imaging, clinical examination, and dental extractions that are**
13 **medically necessary to reduce the risk of infection, eliminate infection, or treat**
14 **tooth loss or decay as part of a pre-cancer treatment screening for an insured**
15 **who has been diagnosed with cancer.**

16 **(2) The dental services shall be covered when performed as part of a pre-**
17 **treatment medical clearance protocol for insureds scheduled to undergo cancer**
18 **treatment.**

19 **B. A healthcare insurer is not required to provide coverage for routine**
20 **preventive dental care, including cleaning and sealants.**

21 **C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a plan providing**
22 **coverage for excepted benefits as defined in R.S. 22:1061, limited benefit health**
23 **insurance plans, and short-term policies that have a term of less than twelve**
24 **months.**

25 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to any new policy, contract,
26 program, or health coverage plan issued on or after January 1, 2027. Any policy, contract,

1 or plan in effect prior to January 1, 2027, shall convert to conform to the provisions of this
2 Act on or before the renewal date thereof, but in no event later than January 1, 2028.

3 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
7 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____