



PA 23-94—sSB 977

Human Services Committee

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SURGERY AND
MEDICAL SERVICES RELATED TO TREATMENT OF OBESITY**

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to cover bariatric surgery and specified medical services for Medicaid and HUSKY B beneficiaries with obesity under certain circumstances. Under the act, these medical services include (1) federal Food and Drug Administration-approved prescription drugs for outpatient treatment of obesity and (2) nutritional counseling from a registered dietitian-nutritionist. Bariatric surgery is a procedure that makes changes to the digestive system to help a patient with obesity lose weight.

Specifically, as long as beneficiaries otherwise meet conditions set by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the act requires DSS to cover the following:

1. medical services for beneficiaries with a body mass index (BMI) over 35 and
2. bariatric surgery and related medical services for beneficiaries with severe obesity.

Under the act, “severe obesity” is having a BMI of (1) at least 35 with a comorbid disease or condition (e.g., a cardiopulmonary condition, diabetes, hypertension, or sleep apnea) or (2) over 40. “Obesity” is having a BMI of 30 or higher. BMI is calculated by dividing a person’s weight in kilograms by height in meters squared.

The act allows the DSS commissioner to amend the state plans for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (i.e., HUSKY B) if needed to implement its provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023