



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 317**

LCO No. 5663



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Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by:  
(INS)

**AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN SURGICAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED TO TREAT SEVERE OBESITY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) (a) For the purposes of  
2 this section:

3 (1) "Body mass index" means the number calculated by dividing an  
4 individual's weight in kilograms by the individual's height in meters  
5 squared; and

6 (2) "Severe obesity" means a body mass index that is:

7 (A) Greater than forty kilograms per meter squared; or

8 (B) Not less than thirty-five kilograms per meter squared if an  
9 individual has been diagnosed with a comorbid disease or condition,  
10 including, but not limited to, a cardiopulmonary condition, diabetes,  
11 hypertension or sleep apnea.

12 (b) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of

13 the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section  
14 38a-469 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, renewed,  
15 amended or continued in this state on or after January 1, 2020, shall  
16 provide coverage for each surgical procedure that is:

17 (1) Performed to treat severe obesity, including, but not limited to,  
18 gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch;

19 (2) Recognized by the National Institutes of Health, American  
20 Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and American College of  
21 Surgeons as providing long-term weight loss; and

22 (3) Consistent with guidelines issued by the National Institutes of  
23 Health.

24 (c) The benefits required by this section shall be subject to the same  
25 terms and conditions that apply to all other benefits covered under a  
26 policy that is subject to this section.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) (a) For the purposes of this  
28 section:

29 (1) "Body mass index" means the number calculated by dividing an  
30 individual's weight in kilograms by the individual's height in meters  
31 squared; and

32 (2) "Severe obesity" means a body mass index that is:

33 (A) Greater than forty kilograms per meter squared; or

34 (B) Not less than thirty-five kilograms per meter squared if an  
35 individual has been diagnosed with a comorbid disease or condition,  
36 including, but not limited to, a cardiopulmonary condition, diabetes,  
37 hypertension or sleep apnea.

38 (b) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the  
39 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-  
40 469 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, renewed,

41 amended or continued in this state on or after January 1, 2020, shall  
42 provide coverage for each surgical procedure that is:

43 (1) Performed to treat severe obesity, including, but not limited to,  
44 gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch;

45 (2) Recognized by the National Institutes of Health, American  
46 Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and American College of  
47 Surgeons as providing long-term weight loss; and

48 (3) Consistent with guidelines issued by the National Institutes of  
49 Health.

50 (c) The benefits required by this section shall be subject to the same  
51 terms and conditions that apply to all other benefits covered under a  
52 policy that is subject to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require health insurance coverage for certain surgical procedures performed to treat severe obesity.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.

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