

Vincent C. Gray
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

Mary M. Cheh
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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require health insurers to provide a special enrollment period after commencement of a pregnancy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Pregnancy as a Qualifying Event Act of 2019".

Sec. 2. Definitions.

(1) "Health insurer" means any person that provides one or more health benefit plans or insurance in the District of Columbia, including an insurer, a hospital and medical services corporation, a fraternal benefit society, a health maintenance organization, a multiple employer welfare arrangement, or any other person providing a plan of health insurance subject to the authority of the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking.

(2) "Open enrollment period" means the yearly period during which a person can enroll in a health insurance plan.

(3) "Special enrollment period" means any time a health insurer allows a person to enroll in or change their health insurance outside of the open enrollment period.

Sec. 3. Pregnancy as a Qualifying Event.

29 (a) A health insurer that issues a health insurance policy or contract that provides eligibility
30 for a special enrollment period shall allow for the enrollment of a pregnant individual at any time
31 after the commencement of the pregnancy, as certified by a licensed healthcare practitioner acting
32 within the scope of his or her practice.

33 (b) Coverage shall be effective as of the first of the month in which the individual receives
34 certification of the pregnancy.

35 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

36 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
37 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
38 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

39 Sec. 5. Effective date.

40 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
41 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
42 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
43 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
44 Columbia Register.