

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	3 - 1 - 1
Yeas:	Carter, President Courtney, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	Kruse
Exc.:	Gordly
Prepared By:	Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires health benefit plan to include coverage of contraception. Requires hospitals to inform victims of sexual assault about emergency contraception and treatment options and to provide emergency contraception upon request by victim. Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop informational materials. Prohibits public body from interfering with consenting individual's access to contraception.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of the Commission for Women
- Legislative history of contraceptive equity
- Need for services for victims of rape and sexual assault
- Insurance mandates

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In recent years, many states have passed laws requiring health benefit plans to cover prescription contraception in the same manner as other covered prescriptions. These laws vary from state to state and apply only to insurance plans that are regulated by state law. According to a 2006 Kaiser Family Foundation report, 24 states have comprehensive contraception coverage mandates and 9 states have adopted some requirements relating to contraception coverage.

Emergency contraception is a term used to describe a method for preventing pregnancy after unprotected sex, sexual assault or contraceptive failure. Emergency contraception is used in increased doses within 72 hours of sexual activity. Six states have adopted legislation requiring emergency rooms to provide information about emergency contraception and to dispense emergency contraception upon request to sexual assault victims. On August 24, 2006, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved a specific brand of emergency contraception called Plan B as an over-the-counter (OTC) option for women 18 years of age and older.

HB 2700A requires health benefit plans to cover contraceptives and any procedures and medical services necessary to obtain a contraceptive prescription. Coverage for contraceptives may be subject to provisions of health benefit plans, including but not limited to requirement of co-payments, deductibles and/or coinsurance. In addition, HB 2700A requires hospitals to provide "unbiased, medically and factually accurate written and oral information about emergency contraception" to victims of sexual assault. If emergency contraception is requested by a victim of sexual assault (and if not medically contraindicated), the hospital also must immediately provide the victim with emergency contraception. The measure also prohibits any state, local or special government from depriving the individual of the right to obtain and use contraceptives.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.