

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 3 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Bruun, Cannon, Gelsner, Kotek, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	Flores, Maurer, Richardson
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/2 (Access sub), 4/27 (Full)

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Defines “bone mass measurement.” Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for bone mass measurements for the purpose of diagnosing osteoporosis in a symptomatic or at-risk persons anytime upon referral by person’s health care provider and without referral from the person’s health care provider every five years for women who are at menopause, post-menopausal or have know risk factors, and every five years for men who are 75 years of age or older. Establishes that the coverage is subject to the same terms and conditions as other benefits in the policy. Exempts requirement from automatic repeal on sixth anniversary of effective date of statute. Applies to policies issued or reviewed on or after effective date of Act.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current risks for osteoporosis
- Cost of diagnosing and treating osteoporosis
- Current schedule for bone density measurement
- Current insurance coverage and benefits
- Osteoporosis affects men as well as women
- Frequency of osteoporotic fractures
- Self-referral would change utilization, thus impacting the insurers
- Review of preliminary fiscal impact numbers

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Modifies the testing requirement from two to five years. Allows for self-referral for women at the beginning of menopause. Directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules allowing for self referral for bone densitometry.

**BACKGROUND:** Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break. If not prevented or if left untreated, osteoporosis can progress painlessly until a bone breaks. These broken bones, also known as fractures, occur typically in the hip, spine, and wrist. Any bone can be affected, but of special concern are fractures of the hip and spine. A hip fracture almost always requires hospitalization and major surgery, can impair a person's ability to walk unassisted, and may cause prolonged or permanent disability or even death. Spinal or vertebral fractures also have serious consequences, including loss of height, severe back pain, and deformity.

Osteoporosis is a major public health threat for an estimated 44 million Americans, including 55 percent of people 50 years of age and older. In the U.S. today, 10 million individuals are estimated to already have the disease and almost 34 million more are estimated to have low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis. Of the 10 million Americans estimated to have osteoporosis, eight million are women and million are men.

5/2/2007 9:00:00 AM

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