

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 2
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Read, Roblan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Jenson, Nolan
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jerry Watson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	6/1, 6/2, 6/3

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires certain health insurers to cover tobacco use cessation programs.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History and provisions of measure
- Provisions of proposed amendments

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Smoking is described as the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. It is said that smokers who quit will live longer and have fewer years living with a disability, on average, than if they continued to smoke. Smoking cessation treatments are varied, and may include medication, education, and counseling. Tobacco use cessation treatment is considered the single most cost-effective preventative health care that a person can obtain.

Senate Bill 734 requires health insurers to provide payment, coverage, or reimbursement of at least \$500 for tobacco use cessation programs for aged 15 years or older. Qualifying programs must be recommended by a physician who follows the United States Public Health Service guidelines, and must include both education and medical treatment components designed to help a person overcome an addiction to nicotine.