

SB 242 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage of pregnancy care for surrogate mothers. Defines "childbirth" and "surrogate."

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Requires health benefit plan that provides payment or reimbursement for the costs of pregnancy and childbirth to provide payment or reimbursement for the expenses of pregnancy care and childbirth for an enrollee who is a surrogate. Prohibits health benefit plan from imposing certain conditions on coverage of pregnancy and childbirth for surrogates enrolled in plan. Defines "childbirth," "intended parent," "pregnancy care," "surrogacy agreement," and "surrogate."

BACKGROUND:

A surrogate is a woman who carries a pregnancy for another person or couple. For individuals and couples facing infertility or other pregnancy challenges, surrogacy offers another path to parenthood. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 1999 and 2013, gestational surrogates gave birth to 18,400 infants in the United States.

Senate Bill 242 requires health benefit plans to provide coverage of pregnancy care for surrogate mothers.