

SB 2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Hansell

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 03/22/21

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Knopp, Manning Jr, Patterson

Nays: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits health insurers from imposing prior authorization or other utilization review requirements on coverage of proton beam therapy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proton beam therapy versus other cancer treatment modalities
- Senate Bill 740 (2019)
- Utilization review of proton beam and radiation therapies for cancer
- Locations where proton beam therapy is offered

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 740 requiring health insurers to provide coverage of proton beam therapy for treatment of cancer to the same extent the insurer provides coverage of radiation therapy. The bill allows insurers to subject coverage of proton beam therapy to prior authorization or other utilization review. These reviews allow the insurer to evaluate the efficiency, appropriateness, and medical necessity of treatments, services, procedures, and facilities provided to patients on a case-by-case basis.

Senate Bill 2 prohibits health insurers from imposing prior authorization and other utilization review requirements on the coverage of proton beam therapy for the treatment of cancer.