

SB 168 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/07/21

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

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

Nays: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/17, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plans to cover fertility and reproductive endocrinology services. Applies to plans issued, renewed, or extended on or after January 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Causes and impacts of infertility
- Current coverage and cost of in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment
- IVF coverage requirements in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 10 percent of women (6.1 million) in the United States ages 15-44 have difficulty getting pregnant or staying pregnant. Reproductive endocrinology is a sub-specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology that addresses hormonal functioning as it pertains to reproduction and infertility. Services provided by reproductive endocrinologists can include assisted reproductive technology, gynecologic surgeries, and hormone treatments. Common methods of infertility treatment include various insemination techniques and hormone therapy to stimulate egg production. Assisted reproductive technology (ART) are procedures in which pregnancy is attempted through the use of external means; for example, eggs are fertilized outside the womb and then placed into a woman's uterus through in vitro fertilization (IVF). According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 17 states have passed laws that require insurers to either cover or offer coverage for infertility diagnosis and treatment.

Senate Bill 168 requires health benefit plans to cover fertility and reproductive endocrinology services.