

**SENATE BILL NO. 156**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR GARDNER**

**Introduced: 1/22/16**

**Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to insurance coverage for contraceptives and related services; relating**  
2 **to medical assistance coverage for contraceptives and related services; and providing for**  
3 **an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **\* Section 1.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 21.42.427. Coverage for contraceptives.** (a) A health care insurer that  
7 offers, issues for delivery, delivers, or renews in the state a health care insurance plan  
8 in the group or individual market shall

9 (1) provide coverage for

10 (A) prescription contraceptives;

11 (B) over-the-counter contraceptives approved by the United  
12 States Food and Drug Administration;

13 (C) voluntary sterilization procedures; and

14 (D) consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical

1 services that are necessary to prescribe, dispense, insert, deliver, distribute,  
2 administer, or remove the drugs, devices, and other products or services  
3 provided under this paragraph;

4 (2) reimburse a health care provider or dispensing entity for dispensing  
5 prescription contraceptives intended to last for a

6 (A) three-month period for the first dispensing of the  
7 prescription contraceptive to an insured; and

8 (B) 12-month period for subsequent dispensings of the same  
9 prescription contraceptive to the insured regardless of whether the insured was  
10 enrolled in the health care insurance plan at the time of the first dispensing.

11 (b) A health care insurer may not deny coverage or reimbursement under (a)  
12 of this section because an insured changed contraceptive methods within a 12-month  
13 period.

14 (c) A health care insurer may not offset the costs of compliance with (a) of  
15 this section and may not require

16 (1) copayments, deductibles, or other forms of cost sharing for  
17 contraceptives or services covered under (a) of this section; or

18 (2) a prescription to trigger coverage of over-the-counter  
19 contraceptives approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

20 (d) A health care insurer may not restrict or delay the coverage or  
21 reimbursement required under (a) of this section, including use of medical  
22 management techniques that limit an insured's choice in accessing a full range of  
23 prescription contraceptives.

24 (e) A health care insurer shall provide coverage and reimbursement under (a)  
25 of this section to all insureds enrolled in a health insurance plan, including enrolled  
26 spouses and dependents.

27 (f) A health care insurer that offers, issues for delivery, delivers, or renews in  
28 the state a health care insurance plan in the group market to a religious employer is  
29 exempt from the requirements of this section with respect to the health care insurance  
30 plan of the religious employer if the religious employer opposes the coverage required  
31 under this section and is an

1 (1) organization that meets the criteria set out in 26 U.S.C.  
2 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) (Internal Revenue Code of 1986), as amended; or

3 (2) eligible organization that has self-certified in the form and manner  
4 specified by the United States Secretary of Labor or has provided notice to the United  
5 States Secretary of Health and Human Services, under the requirements set out in 45  
6 C.F.R. 147.131(b)(1) - (3).

7 (g) In this section, "prescription contraceptive" means a drug or device that  
8 requires a prescription and is approved by the United States Food and Drug  
9 Administration to prevent pregnancy.

10 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 47.07.065 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

11 (b) The department shall pay for

12 (1) prescription contraceptives intended to last for a

13 (A) three-month period for the first dispensing of the  
14 prescription contraceptive to an insured; and

15 (B) 12-month period for subsequent dispensings of the same  
16 prescription contraceptive to the insured regardless of whether the insured was  
17 enrolled in the health care insurance plan at the time of the first dispensing;

18 (2) over-the-counter contraceptives approved by the United States  
19 Food and Drug Administration;

20 (3) voluntary sterilization procedures; and

21 (4) consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical services that  
22 are necessary to prescribe, dispense, insert, deliver, distribute, administer, or remove  
23 the drugs, devices, and other products or services provided under this subsection.

24 (c) In this section, "prescription contraceptive" means a drug or device that  
25 requires a prescription and is approved by the United States Food and Drug  
26 Administration to prevent pregnancy.

27 \* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
28 read:

29 **MEDICAID STATE PLAN INSTRUCTIONS; NOTICE TO REVISOR OF**  
30 **STATUTES.** The Department of Health and Social Services shall immediately amend and  
31 submit for federal approval a state plan for medical assistance coverage consistent with

1 AS 47.07.065(b) and (c), added by sec. 2 of this Act. The Department of Health and Social  
2 Services shall apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for any  
3 waivers necessary to implement AS 47.07.065(b) and (c), added by sec. 2 of this Act. The  
4 commissioner of health and social services shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing if the  
5 United States Department of Health and Human Services approves the provisions of  
6 AS 47.07.065(b) and (c), added by sec. 2 of this Act.

7 \* **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
8 read:

9       CONDITIONAL EFFECT. AS 47.07.065(b) and (c), added by sec. 2 of this Act, take  
10 effect only if the commissioner of health and social services notifies the revisor of statutes in  
11 writing under sec. 3 of this Act, on or before January 1, 2017, that the provisions of  
12 AS 47.07.065(b) and (c), added by sec. 2 of this Act, have been approved by the United States  
13 Department of Health and Human Services.

14 \* **Sec. 5.** If AS 47.07.065(b) and (c), added by sec. 2 of this Act, take effect, they take effect  
15 on the day after the date the commissioner of health and social services makes a certification  
16 to the revisor of statutes under secs. 3 and 4 of this Act.

17 \* **Sec. 6.** Except as provided in sec. 5 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2017.