

# LEGAL SERVICES

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## MEMORANDUM

January 28, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Sectional summary (SB 156; Work Order No. 29-LS1144\W)

**TO:** Senator Berta Gardner  
Attn: Katie Bruggeman

**FROM:** Megan A. Wallace   
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 Amends AS 21.42 by adding AS 21.42.427, which (1) requires insurance coverage for prescription contraceptives, over-the-counter contraceptives, voluntary sterilization procedures, and consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical services necessary for these products or services; (2) requires reimbursement for dispensing a prescription contraceptive; (3) precludes denial of coverage because an insured changes contraceptive methods within a 12-month period; (4) prevents an insurer from offsetting the costs of compliance; (5) prevents an insurer from restricting or delaying coverage for contraceptives; and (6) exempts religious employers if certain criteria are met.

Section 2 Amends AS 47.07.065 by expanding Medicaid coverage for prescription contraceptives, over-the-counter contraceptives, voluntary sterilization procedures, and consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical services necessary for these products or services.

Section 3 Requires the Department of Health and Social Services to immediately amend and submit for federal approval a state plan for medical assistance coverage consistent with this Act. Requires the department to notify the revisor of statutes when approval is obtained.

Section 4 Makes sec. 2 of the Act conditional on the approval required under sec. 3 of the Act.

Section 5 Provides that if sec. 2 of the Act takes effect, it takes effect the day after the commissioner of health and social services makes certification of federal approval under secs. 3 and 4 of the Act.

Section 6 Except as provided in sec. 5 of the Act, provides for a January 1, 2017, effective date.

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