

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator David Wilson

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 219

“An Act relating to utilization review entities; exempting certain health care providers from making preauthorization requests for certain services; and providing for an effective date.”

SB 219 aims to reduce the wait time for certain health care services by exempting qualified health care providers from making preauthorization requests for said services. Currently, Alaskans who need certain health care services must wait days or weeks to get preauthorized to receive health care services because of the processing time between the health care provider and insurance companies. This bill would help Alaskans receive health care services immediately, especially health care services that could save their lives.

Health care providers shall qualify for a prior authorization exemption if at least 80 percent of prior authorization requests submitted in the past 12-month period were approved for that health care service. Utilization review entities will provide exempted health care providers with a list of health care services for which the exemption applies and the duration of the exemption. This helps eliminate unnecessary delays in care by granting providers exemptions who have demonstrated consistent adherence to approval guidelines from prior authorization requirements.

Other states with prior authorization exemptions have seen increased frequency of patients who receive the health care services they need and help eliminate unnecessary delays in care. This bill will help Alaskans receive fast, efficient, and quality healthcare when they need it without waiting for a preauthorization process that could cause their health to decline even more.

Please contact Julia Fonov in my office at (907) 465-4711 or Julia.Fonov@akleg.gov for any questions.