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Sponsor Statement

HB 187: Prior Auth Exempt for Health Providers

HB 187 aims to reduce the wait time for certain health care services by exempting health care providers from making preauthorization requests for said services.

Currently, Alaskans who need certain health care services must wait days and even weeks at a time to get pre-authorized 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.

This bill would create a utilization review entity that may evaluate whether a health care provider continues to qualify for an exemption if during the most recent 12-month period, the utilization review entity has approved or would approve at least 80% of the prior authorization requests submitted by the health care provider for that health care service.

The Health Care provider is not required to request an exemption to qualify for an exemption. A utilization review may not deny or reduce payment for a health care service that is exempted.

Other states with prior authorization exemptions have seen increased frequency of patients who receive the health care services they need expediently.

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.