



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 541

Chairperson: Tim Gay
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Under current law, the Department of Health and Human Services may establish limits on the amount, duration and scope of services that recipients may receive under the medical assistance program, commonly referred to as Medicaid. Annual expenditure limitations are placed on certain dental services, thus requiring a dentist to provide necessary services over a period of years. Requiring that such services be provided in this manner can result in a violation of basic dental standards of care. In other instances the result is an actual increase in cost to the Medicaid system or to the private sector through cost shifting to hospital emergency rooms.

LB 541 is intended to exempt certain adult dental services from limits on the amount, duration and scope of services that recipients may receive under the medical assistance program. Dental services would be exempt from these limitations when the recipient:

- a) is pregnant;
- b) has a dental condition that if left untreated would worsen an existing disease or would result in extra cost to treat the existing condition;
- c) has a dental condition that cannot be treated over a period of time without violating basic dental standards of care, such as the extraction of teeth to fit for dentures;
- d) has experienced trauma to the mouth or teeth and the recipient would suffer loss of front permanent teeth if immediate and full dental treatment were not provided; or
- e) is a first-time eligible Medicaid recipient, in order to perform major dental services and ultimately save costs by ensuring that future dental care is preventive.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Kathy Campbell