

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1144
(Industry, Business and Labor Committee)
(At the request of the Insurance Commissioner)

AN ACT to create and enact section 26.1-36-09.11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to insurance coverage for breast reconstruction surgery; and to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 26.1-36.3-05 and subsection 5 of section 26.1-36.4-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to renewability of health insurance coverage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Section 26.1-36-09.11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

26.1-36-09.11. Breast reconstruction surgery. An insurance company, nonprofit health service corporation, or health maintenance organization may not deliver, issue, execute, or renew any health insurance policy, health service contract, or evidence of coverage on an individual, group, blanket, or franchise basis unless the policy, contract, or evidence of insurance provides the benefit provisions of the federal Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 [Pub. L. 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-337; 42 U.S.C. 300gg-6]. This section does not apply to individual or group supplemental, specified disease, long-term care, or other limited benefit policies.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subsection 5 of section 26.1-36.3-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5. At the time of coverage renewal, a health insurance carrier may modify the health insurance coverage for a product offered to a group health plan, if for coverage that is available in such market other than only through one or more bona fide associations, the modification is reasonable, consistent with state law and effective on a uniform basis among group health plans with that product. If coverage is modified, the carrier shall:
 - a. Provide advance notice of its decision under this subsection to the commissioner at least three working days prior to mailing the notice to the affected small employers and participants and beneficiaries.
 - b. Provide notice of the decision to modify health coverage to all affected small employers, participants, and beneficiaries and the commissioner sixty days prior to the modification of health coverage by the carrier.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 5 of section 26.1-36.4-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5. At the time of coverage renewal, an insurer may modify the health insurance coverage for a product offered to a group or individual, if the modification is reasonable, consistent with state law and effective on a uniform basis. If coverage is modified, the carrier shall:
 - a. Provide advance notice of its decision under this subsection to the commissioner at least three working days prior to mailing the notice to the affected employers and participants and beneficiaries.
 - b. Provide notice of the decision to modify health coverage to all affected employers, participants, and beneficiaries and the commissioner sixty days prior to the modification of health coverage by the carrier.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1144.

House Vote: Yeas 92 Nays 0 Absent 6

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State