

House Bill 1122 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Douglas of the 78th, Newton of the 127th, Hugley of the 141st, Hawkins of the 27th, and Howard of the 129th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding insurance generally, so as to require certain benefits
3 for peripheral artery disease screening tests for enrollees enrolled in health benefit policies;
4 to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to amend Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the
5 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employees' insurance and benefits plans, so
6 as to require certain benefits for peripheral artery disease screening tests; to amend Article
7 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to medical
8 assistance generally, so as to require certain benefits for peripheral artery disease screening
9 tests; to provide for a plan amendment when necessary; to provide for legislative findings;
10 to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates and
11 applicability contingent upon appropriations by the General Assembly; to repeal conflicting
12 laws; and for other purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

14

15 The General Assembly finds that:

16 (1) Atherosclerosis occurs when blood flow is reduced because arteries become
17 narrowed or blocked with fatty deposits;18 (2) Atherosclerosis is responsible for more deaths in the United States than any other
19 condition, and heart attacks resulting from clogged coronary arteries are the leading cause
20 of death in America;21 (3) Atherosclerosis also occurs in the legs and is known as peripheral artery disease
22 (PAD),and having PAD significantly increases the risk for heart attack, stroke,
23 amputation, and death;24 (4) While most Americans are aware of atherosclerosis in the heart, many Americans
25 have never heard of PAD, and Americans with PAD are often unaware of the serious
26 risks of the disease;27 (5) An estimated 21 million Americans have PAD, and about 200,000 of them, who are
28 disproportionately minorities, suffer avoidable amputations every year as a result of such
29 disease;30 (6) Screening and arterial testing for PAD is cost effective and should be part of routine
31 medical care; and32 (7) Once PAD is detected, amputations and deaths can be reduced through the use of
33 national, evidence based PAD care guidelines.**SECTION 2.**

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35 Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
36 general provisions regarding insurance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section
37 to read as follows:38 "33-24-59.37.39 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

- 40 (1) 'At-risk individual' means an individual who:
41 (A) Is 65 years of age or older;
42 (B) Is at least 50 years of age but not older than 64 years of age with risk factors for
43 atherosclerosis, such as diabetes mellitus, a history of smoking, hyperlipidemia,
44 hypertension, or a family history of peripheral artery disease;
45 (C) Is younger than 50 years of age with diabetes mellitus and one additional risk
46 factor as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph for atherosclerosis; or
47 (D) Has a known atherosclerotic disease in another vascular bed, such as coronary,
48 carotid, subclavian, renal, or mesenteric artery stenosis, or abdominal aortic aneurysm.
49 (2) 'Health benefit policy' means any individual or group plan, policy, or contract for
50 healthcare services issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state which
51 provides major medical benefits by a healthcare corporation, health maintenance
52 organization, preferred provider organization, accident and sickness insurer, fraternal
53 benefit society, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation, or other insurer
54 or similar entity.
55 (3) 'Peripheral artery disease screening test' means:
56 (A) Noninvasive physiologic studies of extremity arteries, commonly referred to as
57 ankle-brachial index testing; or
58 (B) Ankle plethysmographic pulse volume recordings and Doppler waveforms.
59 (b) A health benefit policy amended, delivered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1,
60 2027, shall provide coverage, no less than once every 12 months, for a peripheral artery
61 disease screening test for any at-risk individual.
62 (c) The benefits provided in this Code section shall be subject to the same deductibles,
63 coinsurance, copayment provisions, and other limitations established for all covered
64 benefits within such policy. Special deductibles, coinsurance, copayment, and other
65 limitations that are not generally applicable to other benefits shall not be applicable to the
66 benefits described in this Code section.

67 (d) This Code section shall not be applicable to self-funded, employer sponsored health
68 insurance plans subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal Employee Retirement
69 Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. Section 1001, et seq., as amended."

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SECTION 3.

72 Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employees'
73 insurance and benefits plans, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

74 "45-18-4.3.

75 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

76 (1) 'At-risk individual' means an individual who:

77 (A) Is 65 years of age or older;

78 (B) Is at least 50 years of age but not older than 64 years of age with risk factors for
79 atherosclerosis, such as diabetes mellitus, a history of smoking, hyperlipidemia, or
80 hypertension, or a family history of peripheral artery disease;

81 (C) Is younger than 50 years of age with diabetes mellitus and one additional risk
82 factor as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph for atherosclerosis; or

83 (D) Has a known atherosclerotic disease in another vascular bed, such as coronary,
84 carotid, subclavian, renal, or mesenteric artery stenosis, or abdominal aortic aneurysm.

85 (2) 'Peripheral artery disease screening test' means:

86 (A) Noninvasive physiologic studies of extremity arteries, commonly referred to as
87 ankle-brachial index testing; or

88 (B) Ankle plethysmographic pulse volume recordings and Doppler waveforms.

89 (b) The health insurance plan established pursuant to this article shall provide benefits for
90 an enrollee which shall include coverage, no less than once every 12 months, for a
91 peripheral artery disease screening test for at-risk individuals.

92 (c) The benefits provided in this Code section shall be subject to the same deductibles,
93 coinsurance, copayment provisions, and other limitations established for all covered

94 benefits within such plan. Special deductibles, coinsurance, copayment, and other
95 limitations that are not generally applicable to other benefits shall not be applicable to the
96 benefits described in this Code section."

97 **SECTION 4.**

98 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
99 medical assistance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

100 "49-4-159.5.

101 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

102 (1) 'At-risk individual' means an individual who:

103 (A) Is 65 years of age or older;

104 (B) Is at least 50 years of age but not older than 64 years of age with risk factors for
105 atherosclerosis, such as diabetes mellitus, a history of smoking, hyperlipidemia, or
106 hypertension, or a family history of peripheral artery disease;

107 (C) Is younger than 50 years of age with diabetes mellitus and one additional risk
108 factor as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph for atherosclerosis; or

109 (D) Has a known atherosclerotic disease in another vascular bed, such as coronary,
110 carotid, subclavian, renal, or mesenteric artery stenosis, or abdominal aortic aneurysm.

111 (2) 'Peripheral artery disease screening test' means:

112 (A) Noninvasive physiologic studies of extremity arteries, commonly referred to as
113 ankle-brachial index testing; or

114 (B) Ankle plethysmographic pulse volume recordings and Doppler waveforms.

115 (b) The department shall provide Medicaid recipients with peripheral artery disease
116 screening tests for at-risk individuals no less than once every 12 months.

117 (c) To implement the provisions of this Code section, the department shall, when
118 necessary, submit a Medicaid state plan amendment or waiver request to the United States
119 Department of Health and Human Services."

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SECTION 5.

121 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective on
122 January 1, 2027, and shall apply to the state health benefit plan, the state Medicaid plan,
123 and all health benefit policies or contracts issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed
124 in this state on or after such date.

125 (b)(1) Section 3 of this Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically
126 appropriated for purposes of Section 3 of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the
127 General Assembly. If funds are appropriated as described in this paragraph, then
128 Section 3 of this Act shall become effective on the later of:

129 (A) The date on which such appropriations Act becomes effective; or

130 (B) The beginning date of the fiscal year for which such appropriations are made.

131 (2) Section 4 of this Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically
132 appropriated for purposes of Section 4 of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the
133 General Assembly. If funds are so appropriated as described in this paragraph, then
134 Section 4 of this Act shall become effective on the later of:

135 (A) The date on which such appropriations Act becomes effective; or

136 (B) The beginning date of the fiscal year for which such appropriations are made.

137 (3) This section and Section 6 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

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SECTION 6.

139 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.