

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 531 Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY DALLY, BASTIAN, BEYER, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE,  
CREIGHTON, CURRY, FREEMAN, GEIST, HORNAMAN, JAMES, REICHLEY,  
SIPTROTH, WALKO, WANSACZ AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 6, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, MARCH 6, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), entitled "An  
2 act relating to insurance; amending, revising, and  
3 consolidating the law providing for the incorporation of  
4 insurance companies, and the regulation, supervision, and  
5 protection of home and foreign insurance companies, Lloyds  
6 associations, reciprocal and inter-insurance exchanges, and  
7 fire insurance rating bureaus, and the regulation and  
8 supervision of insurance carried by such companies,  
9 associations, and exchanges, including insurance carried by  
10 the State Workmen's Insurance Fund; providing penalties; and  
11 repealing existing laws," providing for medical nutrition  
12 therapy coverage requirements for health insurance policies.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known  
16 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, is amended by adding a  
17 section to read:

18 Section 635.2. Coverage for Medical Nutrition Therapy.--(a)  
19 An individual or group health, sickness and accident insurance  
20 policy, group health insurance plan or policy and any other form  
21 of managed/capitated care plan or policy or subscriber contract  
22 or certificate issued by any entity subject to 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61

1 (relating to hospital plan corporations) or 63 (relating to  
2 professional health services plan corporations) or the act of  
3 December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364), known as the "Health  
4 Maintenance Organization Act," or this act providing hospital or  
5 medical/surgical coverage shall provide coverage for medical  
6 nutrition therapy to aid in the treatment of cardiovascular  
7 disease. The minimum coverage provided shall include all costs  
8 associated with medical nutrition therapy for the length of time  
9 that such therapy is determined necessary. The benefits  
10 specified in this section may be provided through a combination  
11 of policies, contracts, certificates or riders, including major  
12 medical contracts.

13 (b) This section does not include the following policies:  
14 accident only, fixed indemnity, limited benefit, credit, dental,  
15 vision, specified disease, Medicare supplement, CHAMPUS  
16 (Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniform Services)  
17 supplement, long-term care, disability income, workers'  
18 compensation or automobile medical payment.

19 (c) The coverage required under this section shall be  
20 subject to the annual deductibles, copayments or coinsurance  
21 requirements imposed by an entity subject to this section for  
22 similar coverages under the same health insurance policy or  
23 contract.

24 (d) As used in this section:

25 "Cardiovascular disease" means diseases of the heart and  
26 blood vessels, including congestive heart failure,  
27 arteriosclerosis, hyperlipidemia, hypertension and  
28 hypercholesterolemia.

29 "Medical nutrition therapy" means the assessment of  
30 nutritional status and the assignment of diet, counseling or

1 specialized nutrition therapies to treat an illness or  
2 condition, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.