

SENATE, No. 2045

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 1997

By Senator INVERSO

1 AN ACT concerning coverage for scalp hair prostheses and  
2 supplementing P.L.1938, c.366 (C.17:48-1 et seq.), P.L.1940,  
3 c.74 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.), P.L.1985, c.236 (C.17:48E-1 et seq.),  
4 Chapters 26 and 27 of Title 17B of the New Jersey Statutes,  
5 P.L.1992, c.161 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.), P.L.1992, c.162  
6 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.) and P.L.1973, c.337 (C.26:2J-1 et seq.).  
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8 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
9 of New Jersey:

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11 1. Every individual or group hospital service corporation contract  
12 that provides hospital or medical expense benefits which includes  
13 coverage for prostheses and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed  
14 in this State pursuant to P.L.1938, c.366 (C.17:48-1 et seq.) or  
15 approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of  
16 Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act shall  
17 provide coverage for expenses for scalp hair prostheses worn for hair  
18 loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia totalis or  
19 permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage shall be  
20 subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician stating  
21 that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically necessary.

22 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
23 as other prostheses under the contract.

24 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts in which  
25 the hospital service corporation has reserved the right to change the  
26 premium.

27 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
28 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
29 individual.  
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31 2. Every individual or group medical service corporation contract  
32 that provides hospital or medical expense benefits which includes  
33 coverage for prostheses and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed  
34 in this State pursuant to P.L.1940, c.74 (C.17:48A-1 et seq.) or  
35 approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of  
36 Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall  
37 provide coverage for expenses for scalp hair prostheses worn for hair

1 loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia totalis or  
2 permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage shall be  
3 subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician stating  
4 that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically necessary.

5 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
6 as other prostheses under the contract.

7 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts in which  
8 the medical service corporation has reserved the right to change the  
9 premium.

10 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
11 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
12 individual.

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14 3. Every individual or group health service corporation contract  
15 that provides hospital or medical expense benefits which includes  
16 coverage for prostheses and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed  
17 in this State pursuant to P.L.1985, c.236 (C.17:48E-1 et seq.) or  
18 approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of  
19 Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act, shall  
20 provide coverage for expenses for scalp hair prostheses worn for hair  
21 loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia totalis or  
22 permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage shall be  
23 subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician stating  
24 that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically necessary.

25 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
26 as other prostheses under the contract.

27 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts in which  
28 the health service corporation has reserved the right to change the  
29 premium.

30 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
31 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
32 individual.

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34 4. Every individual policy that provides hospital or medical  
35 expense benefits which includes coverage for prostheses and is  
36 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to  
37 N.J.S.17B:26-1 et seq. or approved for issuance or renewal in this  
38 State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the  
39 effective date of this act, shall provide coverage for expenses for scalp  
40 hair prostheses worn for hair loss suffered as a result of alopecia  
41 areata, alopecia totalis or permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury.  
42 The coverage shall be subject to a written recommendation by the  
43 treating physician stating that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically  
44 necessary.

45 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
46 as other prostheses under the policy.

1 The provisions of this section shall apply to all policies in which the  
2 insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

3 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
4 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
5 individual.

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7 5. Every group policy that provides hospital or medical expense  
8 benefits which includes coverage for prostheses and is delivered,  
9 issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to N.J.S.17B:27-26  
10 et seq. or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the  
11 Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date  
12 of this act, shall provide benefits for expenses for scalp hair prostheses  
13 worn for hair loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia  
14 totalis or permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage  
15 shall be subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician  
16 stating that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically necessary.

17 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
18 as other prostheses under the policy.

19 The provisions of this section shall apply to all policies in which the  
20 insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

21 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
22 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
23 individual.

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25 6. Every individual health benefits plan that provides hospital or  
26 medical expense benefits which includes coverage for prostheses and  
27 is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to  
28 P.L.1992, c.161 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or approved for issuance or  
29 renewal in this State on or after the effective date of this act, shall  
30 provide benefits for expenses for scalp hair prostheses worn for hair  
31 loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia totalis or  
32 permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage shall be  
33 subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician stating  
34 that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically necessary.

35 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
36 as other prostheses under the health benefits plan.

37 The provisions of this section shall apply to all health benefit plans  
38 in which the carrier has reserved the right to change the premium.

39 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
40 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
41 individual.

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43 7. Every small employer health benefits plan that provides hospital  
44 or medical expense benefits which includes coverage for prostheses  
45 and is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to  
46 P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.) or approved for issuance or

1 renewal in this State on or after the effective date of this act shall  
2 provide benefits for expenses for scalp hair prostheses worn for hair  
3 loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia totalis or  
4 permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage shall be  
5 subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician stating  
6 that the scalp hair prosthesis is medically necessary.

7 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
8 as other prostheses under the health benefits plan.

9 The provisions of this section shall apply to all health benefit plans  
10 in which the carrier has reserved the right to change the premium.

11 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
12 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
13 individual.

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15 8. Every enrollee agreement that provides hospital or medical  
16 expense benefits which includes coverage for prostheses and is  
17 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to  
18 P.L.1973, c.337 (C.26:2J-1 et seq.) or approved for issuance or  
19 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Health and Senior  
20 Services on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide health  
21 care services for scalp hair prostheses worn for hair loss suffered as  
22 a result of alopecia areata, alopecia totalis or permanent loss of scalp  
23 hair due to injury. The services shall be subject to a written  
24 recommendation by the treating physician stating that the scalp hair  
25 prosthesis is medically necessary.

26 The coverage shall be subject to the same limitations and guidelines  
27 as other prostheses under the enrollee agreement.

28 The provisions of this section shall apply to enrollee agreements in  
29 which the health maintenance organization has reserved the right to  
30 change the schedule of charges.

31 For the purposes of this section, "scalp hair prostheses" means  
32 artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are made specifically for an  
33 individual.

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35 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### 36 37 38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill requires hospital, medical and health service corporations,  
41 individual and small and large group commercial health insurers and  
42 health maintenance organizations which provide coverage for  
43 prostheses, to provide coverage for expenses for scalp hair prostheses  
44 worn for hair loss suffered as a result of alopecia areata, alopecia  
45 totalis or permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury. The coverage  
46 shall be subject to a written recommendation by the treating physician

1 stating that the hair prosthesis is medically necessary. The bill defines  
2 "scalp hair prostheses" as artificial substitutes for scalp hair that are  
3 made specifically for an individual. Alopecia is the absence of hair  
4 from areas where hair normally grows, and alopecia areata is a  
5 condition of unknown origin in which hair falls out in patches.

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10 Requires health insurance coverage for scalp hair prostheses.