

HB26-1122 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and  
2 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-104, **add** (31)  
4 as follows:

5 **10-16-104. Mandatory coverage provisions - applicability -**  
6 **legislative declaration - rules - definitions.**

7 (31) **Hormone replacement therapy - legislative declaration -**  
8 **definition - rules.**

9 (a) **Legislative declaration.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND  
10 DECLARES THAT:

11 (I) HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY IS AN EFFECTIVE  
12 PREVENTIVE CARE SERVICE THAT MAY REDUCE THE STATE'S DOWNSTREAM  
13 HEALTH-CARE COSTS FOR SEVERAL OTHER TYPES OF HEALTH-CARE  
14 SERVICES, INCLUDING THOSE RELATED TO CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE,  
15 OSTEOPOROSIS AND BONE FRACTURES, AND MENOPAUSE;

16 (II) AS OF 2026, HEART DISEASE IS A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH  
17 FOR WOMEN IN COLORADO, AND CARDIOVASCULAR-RELATED  
18 HEALTH-CARE SERVICES ARE COSTLY TO THE STATE;

19 (III) IN SOME COLORADO COUNTIES, ANNUAL PER CAPITA  
20 CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE COSTS RANGE FROM NINETEEN THOUSAND  
21 SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT DOLLARS TO TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND  
22 SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS;

23 (IV) HEALTH-CARE SERVICES RELATED TO HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE  
24 AND HIGH CHOLESTEROL, TWO KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO CARDIOVASCULAR  
25 DISEASE, COST THE STATE THIRTEEN BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY;

26 (V) PREVENTIVE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PROGRAMS FOR  
27 WOMEN IN COLORADO, HOWEVER, HAVE SHOWN AN ESTIMATED SAVINGS  
28 OF TEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS PER PERSON,  
29 AND, FOR WOMEN UNDER SIXTY YEARS OLD OR WITHIN TEN YEARS OF  
30 MENOPAUSE, HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY MAY REDUCE THE RISK  
31 OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE;

32 (VI) OSTEOPOROSIS-RELATED FRACTURES COST THE UNITED  
33 STATES BETWEEN SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY,  
34 AND, AFTER A FIRST FRACTURE, PATIENTS OFTEN INCUR OVER THIRTY  
35 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN MEDICAL COSTS;

36 (VII) THE COST OF FRACTURE TREATMENTS AMONG INDIVIDUALS  
37 RECEIVING MEDICARE WAS FIFTY-SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS IN 2018 AND IS  
38 PROJECTED TO EXCEED NINETY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS BY 2040;

39 (VIII) HORMONE THERAPY TREATMENT, AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY,  
40 ESTROGEN THERAPY, COULD HELP REDUCE THOSE COSTS, AS IT IS HAS BEEN

1 CLINICALLY PROVEN TO PREVENT BONE LOSS AND REDUCE HIP AND SPINAL  
2 FRACTURE RISK;

3 (IX) ADDITIONALLY, UNTREATED MENOPAUSE SYMPTOMS  
4 CONTRIBUTE TO MENTAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY COSTS;

5 (X) OVER FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND COLORADO ADULTS  
6 EXPERIENCE DEPRESSION, COSTING THE STATE ONE TO TWO AND A HALF  
7 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY;

8 (XI) COLORADO'S PER CAPITA MENTAL HEALTH SPENDING IS  
9 SIXTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND SIXTY-SEVEN CENTS, WHICH RANKS  
10 TWENTY-SEVENTH NATIONALLY, DESPITE PROJECTED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
11 SPENDING OF EIGHT AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022  
12 THROUGH 2025;

13 (XII) HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY IS SHOWN TO IMPROVE  
14 DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, SLEEP DISTURBANCE, BRAIN FOG, AND QUALITY OF  
15 LIFE ASSOCIATED WITH MENOPAUSE, AND HORMONE REPLACEMENT  
16 THERAPY IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR VASOMOTOR  
17 MENOPAUSE SYMPTOMS; AND

18 (XIII) FEDERALLY, ANNUAL HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY  
19 COSTS, ROUGHLY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TO FOUR THOUSAND  
20 DOLLARS, ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE LONG-TERM COSTS OF  
21 UNTREATED CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, OSTEOPOROSIS-RELATED BONE  
22 FRACTURES, AND MENOPAUSE-RELATED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH  
23 CONDITIONS. BY MANDATING COVERAGE FROM CARRIERS FOR HORMONE  
24 REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR WOMEN ACROSS THE STATE WHO ARE  
25 EXPERIENCING MENOPAUSE OR PERIMENOPAUSE, COLORADO MAY BE ABLE  
26 TO BENEFIT FROM SIMILAR COST SAVINGS RELATED TO SUCH OTHER TYPES  
27 OF HEALTH-CARE SERVICES.

28 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (31), UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
29 OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY":

30 (I) MEANS A MEDICAL TREATMENT THAT REPLACES A HORMONE  
31 THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S BODY IS NO LONGER MAKING OR NO LONGER  
32 MAKING ENOUGH OF, AS DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN LICENSED  
33 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 240 OF TITLE 12; AND

34 (II) MAY INCLUDE PRESCRIBING A CREAM, AN ORAL MEDICATION,  
35 A PELLET MEDICATION, A VAGINAL DEVICE, OR ANOTHER METHOD  
36 APPROVED BY THE FDA.

37 (c) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (31)(f) OF THIS SECTION,  
38 ALL HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS MUST PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR HORMONE  
39 REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR A WOMAN WHO IS EXPERIENCING MENOPAUSE  
40 OR PERIMENOPAUSE AS A RESULT OF NATURAL AGING OR ANY OTHER  
41 CAUSE, TO BE ADMINISTERED IN THE METHOD, DOSE, AND FREQUENCY  
42 PRESCRIBED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE  
43 HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY.

44 (d) A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MUST NOT DENY OR LIMIT HORMONE  
45 REPLACEMENT THERAPY THAT IS PRESCRIBED IN ACCORDANCE WITH

1 GENERALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE PRESCRIPTION OF  
2 HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY.

3 (e) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT RULES CONSISTENT WITH  
4 AND AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (31).

5 (f) (I) ALL LARGE EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ISSUED OR  
6 RENEWED IN THIS STATE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, SHALL PROVIDE  
7 COVERAGE FOR HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY PURSUANT TO THIS  
8 SUBSECTION (31).

9 (II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (31)(f)(III) OF THIS  
10 SECTION, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH COVERAGE IS NOT IN ADDITION  
11 TO BENEFITS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THE STATE BENCHMARK PLAN  
12 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO 45 CFR 156.111, ALL INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL  
13 GROUP HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ISSUED OR RENEWED IN THIS STATE ON OR  
14 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2028, SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR HORMONE  
15 REPLACEMENT THERAPY PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (31).

16 (III) SUBSECTION (31)(f)(II) OF THIS SECTION IS INOPERATIVE, AND  
17 THE STATE SHALL NOT ASSUME AN OBLIGATION FOR THE COVERAGE  
18 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (31)(f)(II) OF THIS SECTION, IF:

19 (A) THE DIVISION DETERMINES THAT THE COVERAGE SPECIFIED IN  
20 SUBSECTION (31)(f)(II) OF THIS SECTION REQUIRES STATE DEFRAYAL OF  
21 THE COST OF COVERAGE PURSUANT TO A PROVISION OF THE FEDERAL ACT,  
22 INCLUDING 42 U.S.C. SEC. 18031 (d)(3)(B) OR A SUCCESSOR PROVISION  
23 AND THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; OR

24 (B) THE STATE IS OTHERWISE REQUIRED TO DEFRAY THE COST OF  
25 COVERAGE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (31)(f)(II) OF THIS  
26 SECTION.

27 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
28 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
29 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
30 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
31 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
32 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
33 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
34 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
35 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
36 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

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