

HB567: Reducing Barriers to Biomarker Testing and Precision Medicine

Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker, providing information about an individual's disease that can open the door to precision medicine. **Biomarker testing is increasingly important in the treatment of cancer and other diseases including Alzheimer's, rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune conditions, organ and tissue transplant, rare diseases and preeclampsia.** Precision medicine uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to inform diagnosis, prognosis, therapy selection, and to monitor how well therapy is working. **Testing patients for specific biomarkers is integral to precision medicine, but despite evidence pointing to the benefits associated with biomarker testing, testing rates lag behind clinical guideline recommendations.**

Currently, insurers cover some biomarker testing for some patients, but coverage for patients is failing to keep pace with innovations in testing and treatment, leaving some patients behind.

What does HB567 **do**?

The legislation **would**:

- Ensure all state regulated insurers are playing by the same rules, aligning coverage of biomarker testing with scientific and medical evidence, to ensure more patients can receive the biomarker testing they need.
- Ensure state regulated insurance plans cover biomarker testing for the purposes of “diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of an enrollee's disease or condition” when supported by scientific and medical evidence, thus providing value to the patient.

What HB567 **does not** do

HB567 does not require universal coverage of biomarker testing. The legislation **would not** require coverage:

- For the purposes of screening
- For genetic testing to determine if someone has an inherited mutation that increases their risk of later developing cancer

The legislation **would not** require coverage of all biomarker testing. Biomarker testing is **not** indicated for every patient with cancer or other disease.

Nothing in the legislation restricts the use of prior authorization or utilization management.

National Landscape:

To date, 24 states have enacted comprehensive coverage of biomarker testing including GA, FL, MS and TX.