



[HF 2500](#) – Medicaid, Breast Pumps (LSB5980HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 2500](#) requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules to provide reimbursement for breast pumps, including electric breast pumps and associated breast pump supplies, as prescribed by a Medicaid member's health care provider based on a determination of medical necessity under both Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care.

Background

Breast pumps are currently considered a nonmedical convenience item and are not covered under the Medicaid durable medical equipment benefit.

A February 2019 [study](#) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service concluded that breastfeeding provides substantial health benefits to both the mother and the child, and could result in significant Medicaid savings if the prevalence of breastfeeding were increased.

Assumptions

- Iowa Medicaid covers 16,327 live births per year.
- 81.5% of women in Iowa breastfeed their child.
- 85.0% of women breastfeeding will use a breast pump.
- The average cost of an electronic breast pump and supplies is \$152.38, based on a DHS survey of other state Medicaid programs.
- The Medicaid match rate is 61.61% federal and 38.39% State.

Fiscal Impact

[House File 2500](#) is estimated to increase DHS operating costs by \$662,000 in FY 2021 and subsequent fiscal years. In addition, if providing breast pumps results in an increase in women who breastfeed, it could result in Medicaid cost avoidance in both the short- and long-term, due to fewer pediatric and maternal diseases. Due to the uncertainty about whether there will be an increase in breastfeeding, no Medicaid savings have been included in this estimate.

Sources

Department of Human Services
2018 Center for Disease Control Breastfeeding Report Card
American Academy of Pediatrics Journal
USDA Economic Research Service

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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