

Stewart E. Barlow proposes the following substitute bill:

**Concurrent Resolution Directing PEHP to Establish
the Weight Management and Obesity Pilot Program**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stewart E. Barlow

Senate Sponsor: Daniel McCay

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution directs the Public Employees' Benefit Insurance Program to establish the Weight Management and Obesity Pilot Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- recognizes the existing bariatric surgery pilot program within the Public Employees' Benefit Insurance Program (PEHP); and
- directs PEHP to establish a new Weight Management and Obesity Pilot Program that combines the bariatric surgery pilot program with an option for GLP-1 coverage.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Utah Code Section 49-20-201, the state participates in the Public Employees' Benefit Insurance Program (PEHP);

WHEREAS, the state has authorized PEHP since 2011 to administer a pilot program for bariatric surgery for the state health insurance plan with an adjusted annual budget of \$1,050,000;

WHEREAS, a member must, among other things, meet medical criteria of over 40 BMI or over 35 BMI with certain comorbidities, participate in health coaching, and show an aptitude for weight loss over six months to qualify for the bariatric surgery pilot program;

WHEREAS, data suggests that the class of drugs known as glucagon-like peptide-1

28 receptor agonists, known as GLP-1 drugs, could be an effective option for medically qualified
29 members;

30 WHEREAS, PEHP currently provides coverage for GLP-1 drugs for diabetes treatment, but
31 does not cover GLP-1 drugs for obesity treatment; and

32 WHEREAS, the state desires to make available an alternative GLP-1 benefit for medically
33 qualified members that would be limited in scope to stay within the adjusted budget of the
34 bariatric surgery pilot program:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
36 Governor concurring therein, directs the Public Employees' Benefit Insurance Program,
37 beginning with the 2026 plan year, to:

38 (1) modify the current bariatric surgery pilot program to be the 'Weight Management and
39 Obesity Pilot Program' and include an alternative GLP-1 treatment pathway;

40 (2) define the parameters of the alternative GLP-1 treatment pathway for medically
41 qualified members, including requirements that the program:

42 a. be administered on a reimbursement basis;

43 b. include 50% member cost sharing;

44 c. cap monthly PEHP allowed pharmacy expenses at \$300 per member;

45 d. limit coverage to a 24-month period; and

46 e. align current bariatric surgery pilot program coaching and other participation
47 requirements to also apply to the alternative GLP-1 treatment pathway;

48 (3) permit medically qualified members who enter the Weight Management and Obesity
49 Pilot Program to make a one-time choice between bariatric surgery and the alternative GLP-1
50 treatment pathway, providing that if a member discontinues use of GLP-1 treatment within six
51 months, the member may participate in the pilot program for bariatric surgery;

52 (4) administer the Weight Management and Obesity Pilot Program to stay within the
53 adjusted annual budget; and

54 (5) before December 1, 2026, and each year thereafter until 2028, report to the Health and
55 Human Services Interim Committee on the results of the Weight Management and Obesity
56 Pilot Program.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Public
58 Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program.