

# HB242 INTRODUCED



1 HB242  
2 LUZ7AWY-1  
3 By Representative Rigsby  
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund  
5 First Read: 11-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Medicaid program does not cover rapid whole genome sequencing.

This bill would require Medicaid to pay for rapid whole genome sequencing for hospitalized infants, children, and younger adults who suffer from acute or complex illnesses that have causes that elude the more conventional means of medical detection, in order to determine if the origin is genetic.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to Medicaid, to require coverage of rapid whole genome sequencing for certain individuals in the Medicaid program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, "rapid whole genome sequencing" is defined as an investigation of the entire human genome, including coding and non-coding regions and mitochondrial deoxyribonucleic acid, which yields a preliminary positive result of a disease-causing genetic change within five days, and a final result of the same within



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29 14 days. The term includes patient-only whole genome  
30 sequencing and duo and trio whole genome sequencing of the  
31 patient and his or her biological parents.

32 (b) Subject to prior approval or a waiver from the  
33 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Alabama  
34 Medicaid Agency shall cover rapid whole genome sequencing for  
35 an individual covered by Medicaid who meets all of the  
36 following criteria:

37 (1) Is 21 years of age or younger.

38 (2) Has a complex or acute illness of unknown etiology  
39 that is not confirmed to be caused by environmental exposure,  
40 toxic ingestion, infection that responds to therapy, or  
41 trauma.

42 (3) Is a hospital inpatient in an intensive care unit,  
43 including a neonatal intensive care unit, or a high acuity  
44 pediatric unit.

45 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
46 1, 2025.