



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Committee Bill No. 6887

LCO No. 4855



Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by:
(INS)

AN ACT CONCERNING COVERAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES PROVIDED BY CERTIFIED PEER COUNSELORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2018*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section: (1) "Certified peer counselor" means an individual
3 certified by the Insurance Commissioner to provide peer support
4 services; and (2) "peer support services" means such nonmedical
5 mental health care services and substance abuse services, as
6 designated by the commissioner, that a certified peer counselor may
7 provide to a person insured under a policy of the type specified in
8 subsection (b) of this section.

9 (b) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of
10 the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section
11 38a-469 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, amended,
12 renewed or continued in this state shall provide coverage for peer
13 support services provided by a certified peer counselor.

14 (c) The Insurance Commissioner shall adopt regulations, in

15 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
16 purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, regulations
17 concerning the: (1) Education and certification of certified peer
18 counselors; (2) peer support services a certified peer counselor may
19 provide; (3) peer support services eligible for reimbursement under
20 subsection (b) of this section; and (4) method and amount of such
21 reimbursement.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2018*) (a) For the purposes of this
23 section: (1) "Certified peer counselor" means an individual certified by
24 the Insurance Commissioner to provide peer support services; and (2)
25 "peer support services" means such nonmedical mental health care
26 services and substance abuse services, as designated by the
27 commissioner, that a certified peer counselor may provide to a person
28 insured under a policy of the type specified in subsection (b) of this
29 section.

30 (b) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the
31 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-
32 469 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, amended,
33 renewed or continued in this state shall provide coverage for peer
34 support services provided by a certified peer counselor.

35 (c) The Insurance Commissioner shall adopt regulations, in
36 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
37 purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, regulations
38 concerning the: (1) Education and certification of certified peer
39 counselors; (2) peer support services a certified peer counselor may
40 provide; (3) peer support services eligible for reimbursement under
41 subsection (b) of this section; and (4) method and amount of such
42 reimbursement.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>January 1, 2018</i> | New section |

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| Sec. 2 | January 1, 2018 | New section |
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Statement of Purpose:

To require that certain health insurance policies cover nonmedical mental health care and substance abuse services provided by certified peer counselors.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY, 133rd Dist.

H.B. 6887