

Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6095

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
Title: DETOXIFICATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.

Vote Date: 3/14/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Jason Perillo, 113th Dist.

Rep. John K. Hampton, 16th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To modify required health insurance coverage for detoxification and substance abuse services. The bill was proposed to create mandatory coverage levels for detox and recovery services throughout the continuum of care. The sponsor of the bill believes the lack of insurance has created a significant problem to folks trying to receive long term care treatment. The bill recognizes that substance use disorders are a chronic disease and should be treated that way for insurance purposes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

The Connecticut State Insurance Department, cannot provide substantive comment on the proposed bill. Will review the Committee and Raised bills once drafted and will be able to provide technical comments on the legislation as appropriate at a later date.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Jason Perillo, cosponsored the bill to create mandatory coverage levels for people seeking treatment for detox and recovery services throughout the state. The bill recognizes that substance use disorders are a chronic disease and as such must be treated in the medical community. Many people attempt to seek treatment and are told that their claims are denied because medical necessity has not been met. Representative Perillo believes this has caused denial of care to people struggling with substance abuse disorders.

Maureen Sullivan Dinnan, Chief Executive Officer of Health Assistance Intervention

Education Network for CT health Professionals, (HAVEN), treat many people in the state for substance abuse and struggle to find resources for long term care. Insurance companies regularly directly or indirectly override the recommendations of the on the ground provider. Many

times if insurance is not made available that person the patient typically cannot afford the providers recommendations and leaves treatment.

CT Medical Society, has long advocated for parity in coverage for all diseases and believes that patients going through addiction need more attention and funding. They believe this language will improve access to for detoxification treatment, improve access to care and will allow reimbursement to those who provide services.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anthem Blue Cross, opposes because there are already too many mandates.

CT Alliance of Non Profits, believes the language of this bill could be more restrictive than current statutes. Placing caps and undue restrictions on people in recovery can leave them without the tools they need to recover.

CCM, opposes it would prohibit pharmacies from making drug formulary changes during a policy term.

Connecticut Association of Health Plans, opposes the bill stating that under current law any criteria developed purchased or licensed to treat disorders must be based on sound clinical evidence and evaluated periodically. Insurance carriers therefore can change their criteria now constituent with American Society of Addiction Medicine Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance related and co-occurring Conditions for Substance abuse disorders. 2American Academy of child and Adolescent Psychiatry's Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument guidelines and the American Psychiatric Association guidelines of the Standards and Guidelines of the Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Health care for Adult mental disorders.

Reported by: Terri Reid

Date:3/21/19