OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5270

AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN SERVICES PROVIDED BY PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires certain health insurance policies to cover outpatient nonmedical mental health care and substance abuse services provided by peer support specialists. (The statutes do not define “nonmedical” mental health services.)

The bill does not define peer support specialists (sometimes known as peer recovery specialists). In practice, peer support specialists complete training and are certified by local, private non-profit organizations or a national organization.

The bill’s coverage provisions apply to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut that cover (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan. Because of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), state insurance benefit mandates do not apply to self-insured benefit plans.

Under the bill, the insurance commissioner may adopt implementing regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020

COMMITTEE ACTION
Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 14  Nay 5  (03/14/2019)