
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6588

AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits certain health insurance policies that cover outpatient prescription drugs from:

1. requiring a health care provider to prescribe a supply of outpatient psychotropic drugs greater than that which he or she deems clinically appropriate or
2. imposing a cost-sharing amount (i.e., coinsurance, copayment, deductible, or out of pocket expense) for a less than a 90-day supply of these drugs that exceeds the 90-day, reduced pro-rata, cost-sharing amount.

These provisions apply to individual or 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; (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan; or (5) single service ancillary health coverage, including, vision, dental, or prescription drug coverage. Because of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), state insurance benefit mandates do not apply to self-insured benefit plans.

The bill also prohibits mental health care benefits provided under state law, with state funds, or to state employees, from requiring a health care provider to prescribe an outpatient psychotropic drug in a quantity greater than that which the provider deems clinically appropriate.

Lastly, the bill establishes two task forces, one to study mental

health service provider networks and the other to study peer support services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2022, except the task force provisions are effective upon passage.

§ 4 — MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER NETWORK TASK FORCE

The bill establishes an 11-member task force to study ways to encourage mental health service providers to participate in provider networks. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee by January 1, 2022. It terminates when it submits the report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

The task force consists of the insurance commissioner, or his designee, and the following members:

1. two appointed by the House speaker,
2. two appointed by the Senate president pro tempore,
3. one appointed each by the House majority and minority leaders,
4. one appointed each by the Senate majority and minority leaders, and
5. two appointed by the governor.

Under the bill, the legislatively appointed members may be members of the General Assembly. Appointing authorities must (1) make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage, and (2) fill any vacancies.

The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore pick the task force's chairpersons. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill passes.

The bill requires the Insurance and Real Estate Committee's

administrative staff to serve as the task force's staff.

§ 5 — PEER SUPPORT SERVICES TASK FORCE

The bill establishes an 11-member task force to study health insurance coverage for peer support services, including how to increase its coverage to people in Connecticut. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee by December 31, 2021. It terminates on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

The bill provides the task force's appointments, qualifications, and appointing authorities, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Peer Support Services Task Force Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Appointee Qualifications</i>
House speaker	2	One must be a recovery support specialist and the other must be a Connecticut Certification Board member
House majority leader	1	Must represent a program overseen by the Department of Children and Families
Senate president pro tempore	2	One must be a recovery coach and the other must represent the Connecticut Hospital Association
Senate majority leader	1	Must represent an organization that trains recovery coaches or recovery support specialists
House minority leader	1	Must be a peer supervisor from an organization that employs peers (presumably, peer support specialists)
Senate minority leader	1	Must represent an organization that provides Medicaid services
Insurance Commissioner	1	Must represent a health carrier
Governor	2	One must be a young adult with various peer support experience and the other must have community reentry perspective

Under the bill, the legislatively appointed members may be members of the General Assembly. Appointing authorities must (1)

make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage, and (2) fill any vacancies.

The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore pick the chairpersons from among the task forces members. The chairs must schedule the first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill passes.

The bill requires the Insurance and Real Estate Committee's administrative staff to serve as the task force's staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/22/2021)