

Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5013

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT REVIEW.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/9/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Cara Pavalock-D'Amato, 77th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will adjust the way the General Assembly legislates new mandate health insurance benefits.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

CT Association of Health Plans stated every year the legislature faces immense pressure to adopt new insurance mandates with little or no information as to the cost/benefit analysis of each proposal absent anecdotal substantiation. Mandate review affords policy makers the ability to look at each proposal in a dispassionate, research-oriented manner.

Connecticut already ranks as one of the most mandated rich states in the nation. As such, fully insured health insurance policies in the state are among the most expensive. Subjecting new mandates to further review prior to passage, makes good sense.

Wyatt Bosworth, Asst Counsel, CBIA feels this bill, if enacted, would ensure a number of safeguards are in place before any further mandates can be passed into law, and allows for more cost-effective ways of generating mandated health benefit reviews. The bill allows the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Insurance to contract with private actuarial accounting firms, in addition to the University of Connecticut Center for Public Health and Health Policy, to conduct mandated health benefit reviews upon referral by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. Under current law, the commissioner is only able to contract with UConn. The cost-prohibitiveness of the current process is exemplified by looking at the

under-utilization of the mandate review process in the past. In the 1 years since the mandate review process was made available to this committee, it has only been utilized three times to review a total of 13 proposed mandates. Furthermore, no review on proposed health benefit 1 mandates has been conducted since 2013.

CT Chiropractic Association stated the current structure for reviewing health insurance mandates is reasonable and allows needed oversight.

The proposal would establish a process where new proposed mandate is held in abeyance until such time as the Department of Insurance has conducted a formal review of the issue and provided a report to the committee. A public hearing could follow. CCA suggests that if the committee adopts this approach, that it is to be very clear that any such review should involve the participation of medical experts in the particular field so that the health benefits of any such mandate to patients is considered.

Linda Kowalski Executive Director, Radiology Society of CT commented that the proposal would establish a process where a new proposed mandate is held in abeyance until such time as the Department of Insurance has conducted a formal review of the issue and provided a report to the committee. A public hearing could follow. The Radiological Society of Connecticut suggests that any such review involve the participation of medical experts in the particular field so that the health benefits to patients is considered. The society also suggests a technical change to the bill in line 13 that deletes the words “offer or” as we believe the word “provide” is sufficient.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Bryte Johnson, ACS CAN feel this bill seeks to create a legislative review and approval process for future insurance health benefit proposals before they can be acted upon by the General Assembly. The bill requires future proposed insurance health benefits to be analyzed for their impact on overall healthcare costs, insurance premiums, and safety and effectiveness.

In 2021 it is estimated that approximately 22,910 CT residents will be diagnosed with cancer while 6,400 will die from the disease. insurance coverage of cancer related health benefits for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitative care have helped to prevent, detect and treat cancer at its earliest stages, saving lives and long term health care costs. establishing artificial barriers at time when CT is already facing challenging economic conditions as well as an uncertain future for affordable access to care only further complicates efforts to ensure the people of CT have the care they need when they need it

Reported by: Diane Kubeck

Date: March 30, 2021