
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6834

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES STATUTES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes in statutes concerning the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and related matters.

The bill requires a person's insurance (private, Medicaid, or Medicare), rather than DMHAS, to cover the costs of substance use treatment under the pretrial Drug Intervention and Community Service Program or pretrial Impaired Driving Intervention Program if the court finds the person to be indigent and unable to pay. This applies as long as these costs are a covered benefit under the person's insurance. The bill continues to require DMHAS to pay other program-related treatment costs for these people, including out-of-pocket expenses, not covered by insurance.

The bill adds two members to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee by increasing, from 23 to 25, the number of municipal representatives the governor appoints.

It removes a current prohibition on telehealth providers' ability to prescribe schedule II or III opioids to treat a psychiatric disability or substance use disorder, including through medication-assisted treatment. This clarifies that medications such as methadone and buprenorphine may be prescribed through telehealth.

The bill updates terminology in various laws by replacing references to substance "abuse" with substance "use."

It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except (1) July 1, 2025, for the provisions on insurance coverage for indigent participants in certain programs (§§ 1 & 2) and (2) October 1, 2025, for the provisions updating terminology (§§ 3-11).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/05/2025)