
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 764

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID PROVIDERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make changes under the state's Medicaid program affecting various types of providers.

It requires the DSS commissioner to amend the Medicaid state plan by October 1, 2021, to include services provided by licensed acupuncturists and licensed chiropractors as covered Medicaid services. It also requires her to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates so that (1) licensed nurse-midwives receive the same rates as licensed obstetrician-gynecologists for performing the same services or procedures and (2) licensed podiatrists receive the same rates as licensed physicians for performing the same services or procedures. The commissioner must seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan, if needed, to adjust the reimbursement rates for the nurse-midwives and podiatrists.

Under the bill, the DSS commissioner must amend the Medicaid state plan to integrate services provided by peer support specialists into care teams funded under the medical assistance program and provide Medicaid reimbursement for these services. Under the bill, peer support service is a recovery-focused behavioral health service that allows an individual the opportunity to learn to manage his or her recovery with help from a peer support specialist who may have experience recovering from mental illness or substance use disorder.

The bill eliminates a provision under current law requiring Medicaid payments for methadone maintenance to be contingent on providers meeting certain performance measures. Under current law, failure to meet department-identified standards on performance

measures results in 5% rate reductions for the second half of 2020 and 10% rate reductions beginning January 1, 2021.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except provisions on methadone maintenance and peer support specialists are effective July 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/09/2021)