
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6643

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to provide Medicaid reimbursement, to the extent allowed under federal law, for suicide risk assessments and other mental health evaluations and services provided at school-based health centers or public schools. It requires her to (1) amend the Medicaid state plan, if necessary, to provide the reimbursements and (2) set the reimbursement level to ensure an adequate pool of providers for these services.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that commercial health insurance policies cover mental health wellness examinations by a primary care provider. The bill maintains existing law's requirement that the policies cover the examinations when performed by a licensed mental health professional.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on Medicaid reimbursement for suicide risk assessments are effective July 1, 2023.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS

By law, certain individual and group health insurance policies must cover two mental health wellness examinations a year. Under current law, the examinations may be done by a licensed mental health professional or primary care provider, and must be covered without preauthorization or patient cost sharing. The bill eliminates the option for a primary care provider to do the examinations.

The bill applies 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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 2 (03/03/2023)