

HB 2469 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Robinson

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Action Date: 05/11/21

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Anderson, Gelser, Lieber, Robinson, Taylor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds mental health wellness appointments to the list of behavioral health services a coordinated care organization (CCO) must offer its members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Starting point for future expansion; raising awareness with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); goal of action at federal level in the future
- Provider shortage; number of providers and services not contemplated by current reimbursement structure: an issue of billing codes, no appropriate billing code; providers having to find where services fit within current billing structures, inhibiting provision of and access to services
- Removing one barrier to improve access
- Responsive, diagnostic emphasis of current system, rather than preventative services to avoid crisis in the first instance
- Inadequate, inequitable reimbursement rates; lack of parity with physical health care providers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3091 in 2017 to require coordinated care organizations (CCOs) to offer and prioritize specified behavioral health services for members, including behavioral health assessments and medically necessary treatments for individuals in crisis.

House Bill 2469 A adds mental health wellness appointments to the list of behavioral health services a CCO must offer its members.