

1 H.648

2 Introduced by Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard,  
3 and Wood of Waterbury

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Human services; medication-assisted treatment; health insurance

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require  
8 commercial health insurers to share costs associated with the provision of  
9 medication-assisted treatment by certain providers.

10 An act relating to coverage for costs associated with medication-assisted  
11 treatment by commercial health insurers

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4754 is added to read:

14 § 4754. HEALTH INSURER PARTICIPATION

15 (a) A health insurer shall make a monthly payment to physicians and  
16 advanced practice registered nurses who are not affiliated with an authorized  
17 treatment program but who meet federal requirements for use of controlled  
18 substances in the pharmacological treatment of opioid addiction in order to  
19 contribute to the shared costs of funding the licensed alcohol and drug  
20 counselors and other medical professionals who support this work. These

1 contributions shall be required as a condition of the insurer doing business in  
2 the State. The amount of each insurer's contribution to each participating  
3 physician or advanced practice registered nurse shall be determined by the  
4 Commissioner of Vermont Health Access and shall be based on the number of  
5 the insurer's enrollees receiving pharmacological treatment from the physician  
6 or advanced practice registered nurse.

7 (b) As used in this section, "health insurer" means any health insurance  
8 company, nonprofit hospital and medical service corporation, managed care  
9 organizations, and, to the extent permitted under federal law, any administrator  
10 of an insured, self-insured, or publicly funded health care benefit plan offered  
11 by public and private entities. The term shall include the administrator of the  
12 health benefit plan offered by the State of Vermont to its employees and the  
13 administrator of any health benefit plan offered by any agency or  
14 instrumentality of the State to its employees. The term shall not include stand-  
15 alone dental plans or benefit plans providing coverage for specific diseases or  
16 other limited benefit coverage.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.