

1 H.120

2 Introduced by Representative Pugh of South Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; substance use disorder; medication-assisted
6 treatment; prior authorization

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit
8 health insurance plans and Medicaid from imposing prior authorization
9 requirements for medication-assisted treatment.

10 An act relating to prohibiting prior authorization requirements for
11 medication-assisted treatment

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

13 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4089b is amended to read:

14 § 4089b. HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND
15 SUBSTANCE ABUSE USE DISORDER

16 * * *

17 (c) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for treatment of a mental
18 condition and shall:

19 (1) not establish any rate, term, or condition that places a greater burden
20 on an insured for access to treatment for a mental condition than for access to

1 treatment for other health conditions, including no greater co-payment for
2 primary mental health care or services than the co-payment applicable to care
3 or services provided by a primary care provider under an insured's policy and
4 no greater co-payment for specialty mental health care or services than the co-
5 payment applicable to care or services provided by a specialist provider under
6 an insured's policy;

7 (2) not exclude from its network or list of authorized providers any
8 licensed mental health or substance abuse provider located within the
9 geographic coverage area of the health benefit plan if the provider is willing to
10 meet the terms and conditions for participation established by the health
11 insurer; ~~and~~

12 (3) make any deductible or out-of-pocket limits required under a health
13 insurance plan comprehensive for coverage of both mental and physical health
14 conditions; and

15 (4) place medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug
16 Administration for the treatment of substance use disorder on the lowest cost-
17 sharing tier of the plan's prescription drug formulary.

18 * * *

19 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4750 is amended to read:

20 § 4750. ~~DEFINITION~~ DEFINITIONS

21 As used in this chapter, "~~medication-assisted treatment~~";

- 1 October 1, 2019 on such date as a health insurer issues, offers, or renews the
- 2 health insurance plan, but in no event later than October 1, 2020.