

1 S.43

2 Introduced by Senators Lyons, Cummings, Ingram, McCormack, and

3 Westman

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Health; health insurance; substance use disorder; medication-assisted

7 treatment; prior authorization

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit

9 health insurance plans and Medicaid from imposing prior authorization

10 requirements for medication-assisted treatment.

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

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

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

15 § 4089b. HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND

16 ~~SUBSTANCE ABUSE~~ SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

17 * * *

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

19 condition and shall:

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

2 § 4750. ~~DEFINITION~~ DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this chapter, ~~“medication-assisted treatment”~~:

4 (1) “Health insurance plan” has the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A.

5 § 4089b.

6 (2) “Medication-assisted treatment” means the use of U.S. Federal Food
7 and Drug Administration-approved medications, in combination with
8 counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole patient approach to the
9 treatment of substance use disorders.

10 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4754 is added to read:

11 § 4754. PROHIBITION ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

12 A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for medication-
13 assisted treatment.

14 Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 1999 is amended to read:

15 § 1999. CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES; PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

16 * * *

17 (g) The Program shall not require prior authorization for medication-
18 assisted treatment as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4750.

19 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

20 (a) This section and Secs. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 4750) and 4 (33 V.S.A. § 1999)
21 shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

1 (b) Secs. 1 (8 V.S.A. § 4089b) and 3 (18 V.S.A. § 4754) shall take effect
2 on October 1, 2019 and shall apply to health insurance plans on or after
3 October 1, 2019 on such date as a health insurer issues, offers, or renews the
4 health insurance plan, but in no event later than October 1, 2020.