

Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

SENATE CONVENES AT: 11:30 A.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Third Reading

S. 84.

An act relating to emissions inspections.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 43.

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

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

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

* * *

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

(1) not establish any rate, term, or condition that places a greater burden on an insured for access to treatment for a mental condition than for access to treatment for other health conditions, including no greater co-payment for primary mental health care or services than the co-payment applicable to care or services provided by a primary care provider under an insured's policy and no greater co-payment for specialty mental health care or services than the co-payment applicable to care or services provided by a specialist provider under an insured's policy;

(2) not exclude from its network or list of authorized providers any licensed mental health or substance abuse provider located within the geographic coverage area of the health benefit plan if the provider is willing to

meet the terms and conditions for participation established by the health insurer; and

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

(4) if the plan provides prescription drug coverage, ensure that at least one medication from each drug class approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorder is available on the lowest cost-sharing tier of the plan's prescription drug formulary.

* * *

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

§ 4750. ~~DEFINITION~~ DEFINITIONS

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

(1) “Health insurance plan” has the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 4089b.

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

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

§ 4754. PROHIBITION ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for medication-assisted treatment that is within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's dosing recommendations.

Sec. 4. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT; MEDICAID; REPORTS

On or before February 1, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding prior authorization processes for medication-assisted treatment in Vermont's Medicaid program during the previous calendar year, including which medications required prior authorization; how many prior authorization requests the Department received and, of these, how many were approved and denied; and the average and longest lengths of time the Department took to process a prior authorization request.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 4750) and 4 (prior authorization for medication-assisted treatment; Medicaid; reports) shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(b) Secs. 1 (8 V.S.A. § 4089b) and 3 (18 V.S.A. § 4754) shall take effect on January 1, 2020 and shall apply to health insurance plans on or after January 1, 2020 on such date as a health insurer issues, offers, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later than January 1, 2021.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions For Action Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

S.C.R. 4 (For text of Resolution, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for February 14, 2019)

H.C.R. 47 - 55 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 14, 2019)

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 21, 2019 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber - Election of a Sergeant at Arms, of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and of three (3) trustees for the University of Vermont, and Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Candidates for the positions of Sergeant at Arms, Adjutant and Inspector General, and legislative candidates for UVM trustees must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** of their candidacies not later than Thursday, February 14, 2019, by 4:00 P.M., pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are seeking public input on the Governor's Recommended FY2020 State Budget and will hold community-based public hearings on Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the following 5 locations. An additional location in Springfield will be held from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Morrisville – People's Academy High School, Auditorium, top of Copley Avenue

Rutland City – Rutland Public Schools, Longfellow School Building, Board Room

St. Johnsbury – St. Johnsbury House, Main dining room, 1207 Main Street

St. Albans City – St. Albans City School, Library, 29 Bellows Street

Winooski – Community College of Vermont, Room 108, 1 Abenaki Way

Springfield – Springfield Town Hall, 96 Main Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room (Selectmen's Hall) **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

The Committees will take testimony on the Governor's recommended State budget at the above dates and times. Anyone interested in testifying should come to one of the hearings. Time limits on testimony may apply depending on volume of participants. If you have a story you would like to share privately with the committee members, please contact Theresa to schedule this at the end of one of the hearings.

To view or print a copy of the proposed budget, go to the Department of Finance and Management's website at the following URL address: <https://finance.vermont.gov/budget/budget-recommendations/operating-budget/fy2020>

For more information about the format of these events, or to submit written testimony, contact Theresa Utton-Jerman or Rebecca Buck at tutton@leg.state.vt.us or rbuck@leg.state.vt.us or at 802-828-5767 or toll-free within Vermont at 1-800-322-5616. **Requests for interpreters should be made by Friday, February 8.**