

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1344

(Delegate Sample-Hughes, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Rules

Maryland Department of Health - Behavioral Health Assessments for Patients
Provided Opioids - Study

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration with specified entities, to (1) study the use of existing behavioral health assessments to identify specified individuals at risk for opioid misuse, abuse, or other adverse outcomes after completing an appropriate course of opioids for pain management and (2) make recommendations on policies and procedures to increase the use of such assessments to identify individuals at risk and use the assessments as soon as an individual exhibits opioid dependence. By December 15, 2018, MDH must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH can conduct the study and issue the required report using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under § 15-802 of the Insurance Article, specified health benefit plans must provide at least the following benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of a mental illness, emotional disorder, drug use disorder, or alcohol use disorder:

- inpatient benefits for services provided in a licensed or certified facility, including hospital inpatient benefits;
- partial hospitalization benefits; and
- outpatient and intensive outpatient benefits, including all office visits, diagnostic evaluation, opioid treatment services, medical evaluation and management, and psychological and neuropsychological testing for diagnostic purposes.

These benefits must comply with federal regulations regarding parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits that relate to parity requirements for aggregate lifetime and annual dollar limits, financial requirements, treatment limitations, and criteria for medical necessity determinations.

Background: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, research indicates that some risk factors make people particularly vulnerable to prescription opioid abuse and overdose, including obtaining overlapping prescriptions from multiple providers and pharmacies, taking high daily dosages of prescription pain relievers, having mental illness or a history of alcohol or other substance abuse, and living in rural areas and having low income.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 702 (Senator Klausmeier, *et al.*) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Health Benefit Exchange; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510