

SENATE BILL 838

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56,
Chapter 7, relative to health insurance coverage of
acupuncture services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Every individual or group health insurance policy providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis, every policy or contract issued by a hospital or medical service corporation, every individual or group service contract issued by a health maintenance organization, and every self-insured group arrangement to the extent not preempted by federal law, which is delivered, issued for delivery, amended, or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2020, must provide coverage for acupuncture services.

(b) Benefits provided for treatment by means of acupuncture may be subject to more stringent deductible and copayment requirements and benefit limits than those established for the treatment of other regular health benefits.

(c) This section does not expand the type or scope of treatment beyond that authorized for any other health benefit and is effective upon each contract, policy, or plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.

(d) Nothing in this section applies to accident-only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, medicare supplement, long-term care, or other limited benefit hospital insurance policies.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "acupuncture" means acupuncture as defined in § 63-6-1001.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it. This act shall apply to contracts or policies issued, entered into, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.