

1 H.324

2 Introduced by Representative Pugh of South Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; opioid use and addiction treatment; reimbursement

6 by commercial insurers for medication-assisted treatment

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require

8 commercial health insurers to share costs associated with the provision of

9 medication-assisted treatment by certain providers.

10 An act relating to coverage by commercial health insurers for costs
11 associated with medication-assisted treatment

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

13 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4755 is added to read:

14 § 4755. HEALTH INSURER PARTICIPATION

15 (a) A health insurer shall make a monthly payment to community health
16 teams to share the costs of funding the work of medication-assisted treatment
17 staff embedded in the practices of prescribing providers who are not affiliated
18 with an authorized opioid treatment program but who meet federal
19 requirements for use of controlled substances in the pharmacological treatment
20 of opioid use disorder. These payments shall be required as a condition of the

1 insurer's doing business in the State. The amount of each insurer's payment to
2 each prescribing provider shall be determined by the Director of the Blueprint
3 for Health Program and shall be based on the number of the insurer's enrollees
4 receiving pharmacological treatment for opioid use disorder.

5 (b) As used in this section:

6 (1) "Community health team" refers to the teams described in section
7 705 of this title.

8 (2) "Health insurer" means any health insurance company, nonprofit
9 hospital and medical service corporation, managed care organization, and to
10 the extent permitted under federal law, any administrator of an insured, self-
11 insured, or publicly funded health care benefit plan offered by public and
12 private entities. The term includes the administrator of the health benefit plan
13 offered by the State of Vermont to its employees and the administrator of any
14 health benefit plan offered by any agency or instrumentality of the State to its
15 employees. The term does not include stand-alone dental plans or benefit
16 plans providing coverage for a specific disease or other limited benefit
17 coverage.

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.