

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5361

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to delaying the use of the ASAM 4 criteria, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions.

Brief Description: Delaying the use of the ASAM 4 criteria, treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions.

Sponsors: Senators Dhingra, Robinson and Nobles; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 3/18/25, 3/25/25 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Delays the date on which Medicaid managed care organizations and health carriers must begin using the American Society of Addiction Medicine Criteria, Fourth Edition, from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 18 members: Representatives Bronoske, Chair; Lekanoff, Vice Chair; Rule, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Marshall, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Davis, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Obras, Parshley, Shavers, Simmons, Stonier, Stuebe, Thai and Tharinger.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Background:

The American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is a medical society that publishes criteria related to the admission, placement, continued service, transfer, and discharge of patients with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders. In 2023 the ASAM published the fourth edition of the criteria.

The Health Care Authority (Authority) and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (Office) are required to adopt a single standard set of criteria for Medicaid managed care organizations and health carriers to use to define medical necessity and appropriate levels of care for substance use disorder treatment in Washington. The ASAM's criteria was selected as this single standard. As updated versions of the criteria are adopted, the agencies must jointly determine whether to use the new criteria and when their use should become mandatory. In the case of the ASAM Criteria, Fourth Edition, 2024 legislation required managed care organizations and health carriers to transition to using that version of the criteria by January 1, 2026, unless the Authority and the Office determine that it should not be used.

Summary of Bill:

The date on which Medicaid managed care organizations and health carriers must begin using the American Society of Addiction Medicine Criteria, Fourth Edition, is delayed from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Adopting the most recent version of the American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria provides the most updated, data-driven, evidence-based practices in diagnosing and treating individuals, however, because of the current budget situation, it makes sense to delay adoption of the latest version of the criteria for a couple of years.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Manka Dhingra, prime sponsor; and Sheri Sawyer, Office of

Financial Management.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.