

2015 -- H 5837 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC002069/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE - INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Palangio, Fellela, Melo, and McNamara

Date Introduced: March 11, 2015

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 27-38.2-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-38.2 entitled
2 "Insurance Coverage for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse" is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **27-38.2-1. Coverage for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.**

5 -- (a) A group health plan, and an individual or group health insurance plan shall provide
6 coverage for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders under the same terms and
7 conditions as that coverage is provided for other illnesses and diseases.

8 (b) Coverage for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders shall not
9 impose any annual or lifetime dollar limitation.

10 (c) Financial requirements and quantitative treatment limitations on coverage for the
11 treatment of mental health and substance use disorders shall be no more restrictive than the
12 predominant financial requirements applied to substantially all coverage for medical conditions in
13 each treatment classification.

14 (d) Coverage shall not impose non-quantitative treatment limitations for the treatment of
15 mental health and substance use disorders unless the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards,
16 or other factors used in applying the non-quantitative treatment limitation, as written and in
17 operation, are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes, strategies,
18 evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the limitation with respect to

1 medical/surgical benefits in the classification.

2 (e) The following classifications shall be used to apply the coverage requirements of this
3 chapter: (1) Inpatient, in-network; (2) Inpatient, out-of-network; (3) Outpatient, in-network; (4)
4 Outpatient, out-of-network; (5) Emergency care; and (6) Prescription drugs.

5 (f) Medication-assisted therapy, including methadone maintenance services, for the
6 treatment of substance use disorders, opioid overdoses, and chronic addiction is included within
7 the appropriate classification based on the site of the service.

8 [\(g\) Payors shall rely upon the criteria of the American Society of Addiction Medicine](#)
9 [when developing coverage for levels of care for substance use disorder treatment.](#)

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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1 This act would require payors providing insurance coverage for the treatment of mental
2 health and substance abuse disorders to rely upon criteria of the American Society of Addiction
3 Medicine when developing coverage for levels of care for substance use disorder treatment.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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