**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**2019**

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**SENATE DRSXXXX-XX-X (X/XX)**

Short Title: Substance-Related Medication Coverage. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE TRANSPARENCY AND COMPLIANCE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND PROVIDE SUBSTANCE-RELATED MEDICATION PROVISIONS

The General Assembly of North Carolina Enacts

**Section 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 58 is amend by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 58-3-310. Prescription medication coverage for the treatment of substance-related disorders.**

(a) All health insurance issuers that issue, sell, renew, or offer health benefit plans, as defined in G.S. 58-3-167(a)(1), in the State in the individual or group market that provide coverage of medications for the treatment of substance-related disorders shall:

1. Not impose any prior authorization requirements on any prescription medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of substance-related disorders.
2. Not impose any step therapy requirements before the health insurance issuer will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance-related disorders.
3. Place all prescription medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance-related disorders on the lowest tier of the drug formulary developed and maintained by the health insurance issuer.
4. Not exclude coverage for any prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance-related disorders and any associated counseling or wraparound services on the grounds that such medications and services were court ordered.

**SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.