SENATE BILL No. XXXX

Introduced by Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

January XX, 2019

An Act to add Sections to the Health and Safety Code and to add Sections to the Insurance Code, relating to insurance,

Legislative counsel’s digest

 SB XXXX Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires health care service plan contracts or health insurance policies issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2000, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of severe mental illnesses, as defined, and of serious emotional disturbances of a child, as specified, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions.

Existing federal law, the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) requires group health plans and health insurance issuers to ensure that financial requirements and treatment limitations applicable to mental health or substance use disorder benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant requirements or limitations applied to substantially all medical and surgical benefits. Existing state law requires individual and small group health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, to comply with MHPAEA.

This bill would require every health care service plan that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage, every specialized mental health care service plan that contracts with a health care service plan to provide mental health services, and every health insurer to submit an annual report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as appropriate, certifying compliance with specified state laws and the MHPAEA.

 This bill would also establish coverage requirements for medications for the treatment of substance use disorders.

*The people of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 1374.78 is added to the Health and Safety Code to read:

 1374.78. (a) All health care service plans shall submit an annual report to the department on or before March 1 that contains the following information:

 (1) A description of the process used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for mental health and substance use disorder benefits and the process used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for medical and surgical benefits.

(2) Identification of all non-quantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs) that are applied to both mental health and substance use disorder benefits and medical and surgical benefits within each classification of benefits; there may be no separate NQTLs that apply to mental health and substance use disorder benefits but do not apply to medical and surgical benefits within any classification of benefits.

(3) The results of an analysis that demonstrates that for the medical necessity criteria described in paragraph (1) and for each NQTL identified in paragraph (2), as written and in operation, the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the medical necessity criteria and each NQTL to mental health and substance use disorder benefits within each classification of benefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the medical necessity criteria and each NQTL to medical and surgical benefits within the corresponding classification of benefits; at a minimum, the results of the analysis shall:

(A) Identify the factors used to determine that an NQTL will apply to a benefit, including factors that were considered but rejected.

(B) Identify and define the specific evidentiary standards used to define the factors and any other evidence relied upon in designing each NQTL.

(C) Provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine that the processes and strategies used to design each NQTL, as written, and the as written processes and strategies used to apply the NQTL to mental health and substance use disorder benefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to design each NQTL, as written, and the as written processes and strategies used to apply the NQTL to medical and surgical benefits.

(D) Provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine that the processes and strategies used to apply each NQTL, in operation, for mental health and substance use disorderbenefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes or strategies used to apply each NQTL, in operation, for medical and surgical benefits

(E) Disclose the specific findings and conclusions reached by the health care service planthat the results of the analyses above indicate that the health care service plan is in compliance with this section and the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and its implementing and related regulations, which includes 45 CFR 146.136, 45 CFR 147.160, and 45 CFR 156.115(a)(3).

SEC. 2. 1374.80 is added to the Health and Safety Code to read:

1374.80. (a) All health care service plans that provide prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use 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 use disorders.

(2) Not impose any step therapy requirements before the health care service plan will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(3) Place all prescription medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders on the lowest tier of the drug formulary developed and maintained by the health care service plan.

(4) Not exclude coverage for any prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders and any associated counseling or wraparound services on the grounds that such medications and services were court ordered.

SEC. 3. 10144.53 is added to the Insurance Code to read:

10144.53. (a) All health insurers shall submit an annual report to the department on or before March 1 that contains the following information:

 (1) A description of the process used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for mental health and substance use disorder benefits and the process used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for medical and surgical benefits.

(2) Identification of all non-quantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs) that are applied to both mental health and substance use disorder benefits and medical and surgical benefits within each classification of benefits; there may be no separate NQTLs that apply to mental health and substance use disorder benefits but do not apply to medical and surgical benefits within any classification of benefits.

(3) The results of an analysis that demonstrates that for the medical necessity criteria described in paragraph (1) and for each NQTL identified in paragraph (2), as written and in operation, the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the medical necessity criteria and each NQTL to mental health and substance use disorder benefits within each classification of benefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the medical necessity criteria and each NQTL to medical and surgical benefits within the corresponding classification of benefits; at a minimum, the results of the analysis shall:

(A) Identify the factors used to determine that an NQTL will apply to a benefit, including factors that were considered but rejected.

(B) Identify and define the specific evidentiary standards used to define the factors and any other evidence relied upon in designing each NQTL.

(C) Provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine that the processes and strategies used to design each NQTL, as written, and the as written processes and strategies used to apply the NQTL to mental health and substance use disorder benefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to design each NQTL, as written, and the as written processes and strategies used to apply the NQTL to medical and surgical benefits.

(D) Provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine that the processes and strategies used to apply each NQTL, in operation, for mental health and substance use disorderbenefits are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes or strategies used to apply each NQTL, in operation, for medical and surgical benefits

(E) Disclose the specific findings and conclusions reached by the health insurer that the results of the analyses above indicate that the health insurer is in compliance with this section and the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and its implementing and related regulations, which includes 45 CFR 146.136, 45 CFR 147.160, and 45 CFR 156.115(a)(3).

SEC. 4. 10144.57 is added to the Insurance Code to read:

10144.57. (a) All health insurers that provide prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use 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 use disorders.

(2) Not impose any step therapy requirements before the health insurer will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(3) Place all prescription medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders on the lowest tier of the drug formulary developed and maintained by the health insurer.

(4) Not exclude coverage for any prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders and any associated counseling or wraparound services on the grounds that such medications and services were court ordered.