**2019 – H XXXX**

======== LCXXXX

========

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

 AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Introduced By: Representatives \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Introduced: January XX, 2019

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

 SECTION 1. Section 27-38.2-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-38.2 29 entitled "Insurance Coverage for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse" is hereby amended to read as follows:

 **27-38.2-1. Coverage for treatment of mental health and substance use disorders. [Effective April 1, 2018.].**

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

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

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

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

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

(f) Medication-assisted treatment or medication-assisted maintenance services of substance-use disorders, opioid overdoses, and chronic addiction, including methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone, or other clinically appropriate medications, is included within the appropriate classification based on the site of the service.

(g) Payors shall rely upon the criteria of the American Society of Addiction Medicine when developing coverage for levels of care for substance-use disorder treatment.

(h) Patients with substance-use disorders shall have access to evidence-based, non-opioid treatment for pain, therefore coverage shall apply to medically necessary chiropractic care and osteopathic manipulative treatment performed by an individual licensed under § 5-37-2.

(i) Each insurer that issues any individual and group health insurance plan shall submit an annual report to the health insurance commissioner on or before April 1st, 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:

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

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

(iii) 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;

(iv) 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 disorder benefits 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; and

(v) Disclose the specific findings and conclusions reached by the insurer that the results of the analyses above indicate that the 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).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

\*\*\*

This act would require insurers to submit reports to the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner demonstrating compliance with nonquantitative treatment limitation requirements of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

This act would take effect on April 1, 2019 or upon passage, whichever date occurs later in time.

======== LCXXXX

========