

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1718
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Montgomery (S), Echols (H)
Date:	4/30/2020
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

SB 1718 requires health insurers to ensure mental health and substance misuse benefit parity.

The measure modifies multiple definitions within the Insurance Code. The act:

- Removes the exclusion of individual plans from the definition of *health benefit plan*,
- Adds the definition *insurer* to mean any entity providing accident and health insurance,
- Removes the definition *severe mental illness*,
- Adds the definition *mental health and substance use disorder* to mean any condition involving mental health or substance misuse listed in the current International Classification of Disease or the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and
- Adds the definition *mental health and substance use disorder benefits* to mean benefits covering services for mental health or substance use disorders.

The measure also changes health benefits policies' coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services from optional to mandatory. Further, the measure removes the exclusion of small employers from the requirement to provide mental health and substance use disorder benefits. Health benefit plans may not impose a non-quantitative limitation on mental health and substance use disorder benefits more stringent than one imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

Insurers must submit to the Insurance Commissioner an annual report documenting criteria to determine medical necessity for mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and all limitations imposed on both mental health/substance use disorder and medical/surgical benefits. These reports must be made public by June 1 of each year. The Commissioner is directed to penalize insurers that do not comply with the provisions of this act and to promulgate rules.

Prepared By: Anna Rouw

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: Mark Tygret

Other Considerations

None.

