



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 5270

LCO No. 4621



Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by:
(INS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS AND
REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR OUTPATIENT
PEER SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY CERTIFIED PEER
SUPPORT SPECIALISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section:

3 (1) "Certified peer support specialist" means a peer support
4 specialist certified by the Commissioner of Public Health to provide
5 peer support services to another individual in this state;

6 (2) "Peer support services" means all nonmedical mental health care
7 services and substance abuse services provided by peer support
8 specialists; and

9 (3) "Peer support specialist" means an individual providing peer
10 support services to another individual in this state.

11 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in
12 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to provide for the

13 certification and education of peer support specialists and specify the
14 peer support services that a certified peer support specialist may
15 provide to another individual in this state.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) Each individual health
17 insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in
18 subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general
19 statutes delivered, issued for delivery, amended, renewed or
20 continued in this state shall provide coverage for peer support services
21 provided by certified peer support specialists, as such terms are
22 defined in section 1 of this act, on an outpatient basis. The Insurance
23 Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54
24 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

25 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) Each group health insurance
26 policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2),
27 (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general statutes delivered,
28 issued for delivery, amended, renewed or continued in this state shall
29 provide coverage for peer support services provided by certified peer
30 support specialists, as such terms are defined in section 1 of this act, on
31 an outpatient basis. The Insurance Commissioner may adopt
32 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
33 implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require (1) the Commissioner of Public Health to adopt regulations (A) providing for the certification and education of peer support specialists, and (B) specifying the peer support services that a certified peer support specialist may provide to another individual in this state,

and (2) health insurance coverage for peer support services provided by certified peer support specialists on an outpatient basis.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.; REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.

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