

SENATE BILL 1827

By Lamar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8;
Title 33; Title 56 and Title 71, relative to insurance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "mental health wellness examination" includes but is not limited to:

- (1) A behavioral health screening;
- (2) Education and consultation on healthy lifestyle changes;
- (3) Referrals to ongoing treatment, mental health services, and other supports; and
- (4) Discussion of potential options for medication.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, every health insurance policy, certificate, contract, plan or health benefit plan that is issued, amended, delivered, or renewed in this state and provides coverage for both medical and surgical benefits and mental health or substance use disorder benefits shall provide coverage for an annual mental health wellness examination of at least forty-five (45) minutes that is performed by a mental health professional.

(c) The coverage required by this section must:

- (1) Be no less extensive than the coverage provided for medical and surgical benefits;

(2) Comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. § 300gg-26, as amended; and

(3) Not be subject to copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or any other cost-sharing requirements.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.