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H.B. 688
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Lipps

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Medicaid and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to each operate a prescription digital therapeutics pilot program to explore the effectiveness of prescription digital therapeutics for the treatment of substance use disorders.
- Begins the pilot programs as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, and ends them on the sooner of December 31, 2023, or when the appropriated funds are expended.
- Requires participating treatment providers and the Departments to make best efforts to include patient participants who have varied demographic backgrounds and experiences with substance use disorders.
- Requires the Departments to each prepare a report by March 31, 2024, using data supplied by prescription digital therapeutics vendors and aggregated claims data, describing findings regarding the impact of the pilot programs.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Prescription digital therapeutics pilot programs

The bill establishes prescription digital therapeutics pilot programs to explore the effectiveness of prescription digital therapeutics, which are class II medical devices approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorders, including

opioid use disorders.¹ The identical pilot programs are to be operated by the Department of Medicaid and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.²

Under the pilot programs, patients who have been diagnosed with substance use disorders and who have been prescribed prescription digital therapeutics must be provided with the prescription digital therapeutic at no cost to the patient. Both Departments must acquire prescription digital therapeutics approved for the treatment of substance use disorders for the pilot programs.³

Pilot program duration

The pilot programs will operate beginning as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, and will end on December 31, 2023, unless appropriated funds are expended sooner, in which case the pilot programs will end on the date the funds are expended.⁴

Identification of program participants

Each treatment provider participating in the pilot programs must identify patients who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder and who have been prescribed a prescription digital therapeutic as part of treatment. Participating patients will be provided prescription digital therapeutic access by activating an access code through a smart phone application. Additionally, participating treatment providers and the Departments must make best efforts to include patient participants who have varied demographic backgrounds and experiences with substance use disorders, including medication-assisted treatment and other behavioral health services.⁵

Reports

The bill requires the Departments to each prepare a report, using data supplied by prescription digital therapeutics vendors and aggregated claims data, describing findings regarding the impact of the pilot programs. The reports must be submitted to the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the House of Representatives and Senate standing committees that consider health and human services issues by March 31, 2024, and must describe:

- The population included in the pilot program;
- The successes and challenges of the program;
- Treatment access for program participants;

¹ Sections 2(A) and 4(A).

² Sections (2) and (4).

³ Sections 2(B) and 4(B).

⁴ Sections 2(D) and 4(D).

⁵ Sections 2(C) and 4(C).

- Participant satisfaction;
- Participant treatment goals and whether the goals are achieved;
- Impacts related to health equity;
- A comparison of hospitalizations among program participants compared to other patients being treated for substance use disorders by participating treatment providers; and
- Recommendations for future coverage of prescription digital therapeutics.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-25-22

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⁶ Sections 2(E) and 4(E).