

ASSEMBLY, No. 2657

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for certain evidence-based behavioral health services; designated as the Mental Health Access Act.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning behavioral health services, designated as the
2 Mental Health Access Act, and supplementing Title 30 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The reimbursement rate for an evidence-based behavioral
9 health care service provided to an adult or a child that is billed to
10 the State Medicaid program shall be no less than the Medicare
11 reimbursement rate for the service, provided the following
12 conditions are met:

13 (1) The service is limited to individual or group counseling
14 provided in an outpatient setting; and

15 (2) The billing provider is a behavioral health treatment facility
16 licensed by the Department of Health or a person licensed or
17 otherwise authorized pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes to
18 practice a health care profession.

19 b. As used in this section:

20 “Behavioral health care service” means a procedure or service
21 for the treatment of mental illness, emotional disorders, or drug or
22 alcohol abuse rendered by a person licensed or otherwise authorized
23 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes to practice a health care
24 profession.

25 “Evidence-based” means a treatment provided by licensed
26 mental health professionals that meets criteria established by the
27 Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the
28 Commissioner of Children and Families, for evidence-based
29 treatment.

30 “Medicaid” means the Medicaid program established pursuant to
31 P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

32 “Medicare” means the federal Medicare program established
33 pursuant to Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act
34 (42 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.).

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36 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply for such
37 State plan amendments or waivers as may be necessary to
38 implement the provisions of this act and to secure federal financial
39 participation for State Medicaid expenditures under the federal
40 Medicaid program.

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42 3. The Commissioner of Human Services and the
43 Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt rules and
44 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act"
45 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of
46 this act.

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21 The bill defines “evidence based” to mean a treatment provided
22 by licensed mental health professionals that meets criteria
23 established by the Commissioner of Human Services, in
24 consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families, for
25 evidence-based treatment.