



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 120

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7023

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. GILCHREST of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR
SUBSTANCE ABUSE COACHES AND MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS UNDER A PEER SUPPORT TREATMENT MODEL.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
2 "peer support services" means recovery-focused behavioral health
3 services that allow an individual the opportunity to learn to manage
4 such individual's recovery with help from a peer support specialist; and
5 (2) "peer support specialist" means an individual who (A) may have
6 experience recovering from mental illness or substance use disorder,
7 and (B) is certified to provide peer recovery support under a program
8 administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
9 Services.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid
11 state plan to integrate peer support services into care teams funded
12 under the medical assistance program and provide Medicaid
13 reimbursement to peer support specialists for such services.

14 (c) Not later than August 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social Services
15 shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
16 the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General
17 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
18 public health on (1) the number of peer support specialists provided
19 Medicaid reimbursement, (2) the number of Medicaid enrollees they
20 serve, and (3) any outcome data on treatment provided by such
21 specialists to such enrollees.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
-----------	--------------	-------------

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a)(2), "means a person" was changed to "means an individual" for consistency.

HS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with expanding Medicaid coverage for peer support services (recovery-focused behavioral health services). The bill requires DSS to amend the Medicaid state plan to integrate peer support services into care teams funded under the medical assistance program and provide Medicaid reimbursement to peer support specialists for such services. The extent of the increased cost is dependent on utilization of the expanded service coverage and rates established.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the Medicaid rates established and service utilization.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7023*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR
SUBSTANCE ABUSE COACHES AND MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS UNDER A PEER SUPPORT TREATMENT MODEL.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to amend the Medicaid state plan to integrate peer support services into care teams funded under the medical assistance program and provide Medicaid reimbursement to peer support specialists for these services.

Under the bill, peer support services are recovery-focused behavioral health services that allow people to learn to manage their recovery with help from peer support specialists. A peer support specialist is someone who (1) may have experience recovering from a mental illness or substance use disorder and (2) is certified to provide peer recovery support under a program administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The bill also requires DSS to report the following information by August 1, 2026, to the Human Services and Public Health committees:

1. how many peer support specialists receive Medicaid reimbursement,
2. how many Medicaid enrollees they serve, and
3. any outcome data on treatment provided by peer support specialists to Medicaid enrollees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 7