
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