

HOUSE No. 991

By Ms. Khan of Newton (by request), petition of Bruce Mermelstein and George Sigel for legislation to amend the mental health parity law. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT AMENDING THE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY LAW.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws as appearing in
2 the 2004 Official Edition is hereby amended in Section 22 subsec-
3 tion (e) by inserting, in line 55 after the word “visits.”, the
4 following:—

5 The minimum of 24 outpatient visits shall be authorized and
6 approved upon the request of the insured and/or the licensed mental
7 health professional. Such approval shall not be contingent upon the
8 commission’s requiring the consent to the disclosure of information
9 regarding services for mental disorders.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 32A of the General Laws as so appearing is
2 hereby further amended in section 22 subsection (h) by inserting, in
3 line 88 after the word “conditions.”, the following:—

4 The commision’s right to require consent to the disclosure of
5 information regarding services for mental disorders shall not be con-
6 strued to limit or deny the approval of the initial 24 outpatient visits
7 for the treatment of mental disorders.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws as so appearing is
2 hereby amended in section 47B subsection (e) by inserting, in line
3 60 after the word “visits.”, the following:—

4 The minimum of 24 outpatient visits shall be authorized and
5 approved upon the request of the insured and/or the licensed mental
6 health professional. Such approval shall not be contingent upon the

7 insurer's requiring the consent to the disclosure of information
8 regarding services for mental disorders.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 175 of the General Laws as so appearing is
2 hereby further amended in section 47B subsection (h) by inserting,
3 in line 91 after the word "conditions.", the following:—

4 The insurer's right to require consent to the disclosure of informa-
5 tion regarding services for mental disorders shall not be construed to
6 limit or deny the approval of the initial 24 outpatient visits for the
7 treatment of mental disorders.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 176A of the General Laws as so appearing
2 is hereby amended in section 8A subsection (e) by inserting, in line
3 58 after the word "visits.", the following:—

4 The minimum of 24 outpatient visits shall be authorized and
5 approved upon the request of the insured and/or the licensed mental
6 health professional. Such approval shall not be contingent upon the
7 commission's requiring the consent to the disclosure of information
8 regarding services for mental disorders

1 SECTION 6. Chapter 176A of the General Laws as so appearing
2 is hereby further amended in section 8A subsection (h) by inserting,
3 in line 89 after the word "conditions.", the following:—

4 The nonprofit hospital service corporation's right to require con-
5 sent to the disclosure of information regarding services for mental
6 disorders shall not be construed to limit or deny the approval of the
7 initial 24 outpatient visits for the treatment of mental disorders.

1 SECTION 7. Chapter 176B of the General Laws as so appearing
2 is hereby amended in section 4A subsection (e) by inserting, in line
3 60 after the word "visits.", the following:—

4 The minimum of 24 outpatient visits shall be authorized and
5 approved upon the request of the insured and/or the licensed mental
6 health professional. Such approval shall not be contingent upon the
7 commission's requiring the consent to the disclosure of information
8 regarding services for mental disorders

1 SECTION 8. Chapter 176B of the General Laws as so appearing
2 is hereby further amended in section 4A subsection (h) by inserting,
3 in line 91 after the word “conditions.”, the following:—
4 The non-profit medical service corporation’s right to require con-
5 sent to the disclosure of information regarding services for mental
6 disorders shall not be construed to limit or deny the approval of the
7 initial 24 outpatient visits for the treatment of mental disorders.

1 SECTION 9. Chapter 176G of the General Laws as so appearing
2 is hereby amended in section 4M subsection (e) by inserting, in line
3 57 after the word “visits.”, the following:—
4 The minimum of 24 outpatient visits shall be authorized and
5 approved upon the request of the insured and/or the licensed mental
6 health professional. Such approval shall not be contingent upon the
7 commission’s requiring the consent to the disclosure of information
8 regarding services for mental disorders

1 SECTION 10. Chapter 176G of the General Laws as so appearing
2 is hereby further amended in section 4M subsection (h) by inserting,
3 in line 89 after the word “conditions.”, the following:—
4 The health maintenance organization’s right to require consent to
5 the disclosure of information regarding services for mental disorders
6 shall not be construed to limit or deny the approval of the initial 24
7 outpatient visits for the treatment of mental disorders.