By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 2218

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to coverage for serious mental illness, other disorders, and chemical dependency under certain health benefit plans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter A, Chapter 1355, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. [~~GROUP~~] HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESSES AND OTHER DISORDERS

SECTION 2. Section 1355.002, Insurance Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(a) This subchapter applies only to a [~~group~~] health benefit plan that provides benefits for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of a health condition, accident, or sickness, including:

(1) an individual, [~~a~~] group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy or [~~, group~~] insurance agreement, a group hospital service contract, [~~or~~] an individual or group evidence of coverage, or a similar coverage document, that is offered by:

(A) an insurance company;

(B) a group hospital service corporation operating under Chapter 842;

(C) a fraternal benefit society operating under Chapter 885;

(D) a stipulated premium company operating under Chapter 884; [~~or~~]

(E) a health maintenance organization operating under Chapter 843; [~~and~~]

(F) an exchange operating under Chapter 942;

(G) a Lloyd's plan operating under Chapter 941;

(H) an approved nonprofit health corporation that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 844; or

(I) a multiple employer welfare arrangement that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 846; and

(2) to the extent permitted by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.), a plan offered under:

(A) a multiple employer welfare arrangement as defined by Section 3 of that Act; or

(B) another analogous benefit arrangement.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, this subchapter applies to:

(1) a small employer health benefit plan subject to Chapter 1501, including coverage provided through a health group cooperative under Subchapter B of that chapter; and

(2) a standard health benefit plan issued under Chapter 1507.

SECTION 3. The heading to Section 1355.003, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1355.003. EXCEPTIONS [~~EXCEPTION~~].

SECTION 4. Section 1355.003, Insurance Code, is amended by

amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) This subchapter does not apply to coverage under:

(1) [~~a blanket accident and health insurance policy, as described by Chapter 1251;~~

[~~(2)~~] a short-term travel policy;

(2) [~~(3)~~] an accident-only policy;

(3) [~~(4)~~] a limited or specified-disease policy that does not provide benefits for mental health care or similar services;

(4) [~~(5)~~] except as provided by Subsection (b), a plan offered under Chapter 1551 or Chapter 1601;

(5) [~~(6)~~] a plan offered in accordance with Section 1355.151; or

(6) [~~(7)~~] a Medicare supplement benefit plan, as defined by Section 1652.002.

(c) To the extent that this section would otherwise require this state to make a payment under 42 U.S.C. Section 18031(d)(3)(B)(ii), a qualified health plan, as defined by 45 C.F.R. Section 155.20, is not required to provide a benefit under this subchapter that exceeds the specified essential health benefits required under 42 U.S.C. Section 18022(b).

SECTION 5. Section 1355.004, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1355.004. REQUIRED COVERAGE FOR SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS. (a) A [~~group~~] health benefit plan:

(1) must provide coverage, based on medical necessity,

for not less than the following treatments of serious mental illness in each calendar year:

(A) 45 days of inpatient treatment; and

(B) 60 visits for outpatient treatment, including group and individual outpatient treatment;

(2) may not include a lifetime limitation on the number of days of inpatient treatment or the number of visits for outpatient treatment covered under the plan; and

(3) must include the same amount limitations, deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance factors for serious mental illness as the plan includes for physical illness.

(b) A [~~group~~] health benefit plan issuer:

(1) may not count an outpatient visit for medication management against the number of outpatient visits required to be covered under Subsection (a)(1)(B); and

(2) must provide coverage for an outpatient visit described by Subsection (a)(1)(B) under the same terms as the coverage the issuer provides for an outpatient visit for the treatment of physical illness.

SECTION 6. Section 1355.005, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1355.005. MANAGED CARE PLAN AUTHORIZED. A [~~group~~] health benefit plan issuer may provide or offer coverage required by Section 1355.004 through a managed care plan.

SECTION 7. Section 1355.006(b), Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) This subchapter does not require a [~~group~~] health

benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of:

(1) addiction to a controlled substance or marihuana that is used in violation of law; or

(2) mental illness that results from the use of a controlled substance or marihuana in violation of law.

SECTION 8. Section 1368.002, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1368.002. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. (a) This chapter applies only to a [~~group~~] health benefit plan that provides hospital and medical coverage or services on an expense incurred, service, or prepaid basis, including an individual, [~~a~~] group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy or insurance agreement, a group hospital service contract, an individual or group evidence of coverage, or a similar coverage document, or a self-funded or self-insured plan or arrangement, that is offered in this state by:

(1) an insurer;

(2) a group hospital service corporation operating under Chapter 842;

(3) a health maintenance organization operating under Chapter 843; [~~or~~]

(4) an employer, trustee, or other self-funded or self-insured plan or arrangement;

(5) a fraternal benefit society operating under Chapter 885;

(6) a stipulated premium company operating under Chapter 884;

(7) an exchange operating under Chapter 942;

(8) a Lloyd's plan operating under Chapter 941;

(9) an approved nonprofit health corporation that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 844; or

(10) a multiple employer welfare arrangement that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 846.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, this chapter applies to:

(1) a small employer health benefit plan subject to Chapter 1501, including coverage provided through a health group cooperative under Subchapter B of that chapter; and

(2) a standard health benefit plan issued under Chapter 1507.

SECTION 9. Section 1368.003, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1368.003. EXCEPTIONS [~~EXCEPTION~~]. (a) This chapter does not apply to:

(1) an employer, trustee, or other self-funded or self-insured plan or arrangement with 250 or fewer employees or members;

(2) [~~an individual insurance policy;~~

[~~(3) an individual evidence of coverage issued by a health maintenance organization;~~

[~~(4)~~] a health insurance policy that provides only:

(A) cash indemnity for hospital or other confinement benefits;

(B) supplemental or limited benefit coverage;

(C) coverage for specified diseases or accidents;

(D) disability income coverage; or

(E) any combination of those benefits or coverages;

(3) [~~(5) a blanket insurance policy;~~

[~~(6)~~] a short-term travel insurance policy;

(4) [~~(7)~~] an accident-only insurance policy;

(5) [~~(8)~~] a limited or specified disease insurance policy;

(6) [~~(9) an individual conversion insurance policy or contract;~~

[~~(10)~~] a policy or contract designed for issuance to a person eligible for Medicare coverage or other similar coverage under a state or federal government plan; or

(7) [~~(11)~~] an evidence of coverage provided by a health maintenance organization if the plan holder is the subject of a collective bargaining agreement that was in effect on January 1, 1982, and that has not expired since that date.

(b) To the extent that this section would otherwise require this state to make a payment under 42 U.S.C. Section 18031(d)(3)(B)(ii), a qualified health plan, as defined by 45 C.F.R. Section 155.20, is not required to provide a benefit under this chapter that exceeds the specified essential health benefits required under 42 U.S.C. Section 18022(b).

SECTION 10. Section 1368.004, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1368.004. COVERAGE REQUIRED. (a) A [~~group~~] health benefit plan shall provide coverage for the necessary care and

treatment of chemical dependency.

(b) Coverage required under this section may be provided:

(1) directly by the [~~group~~] health benefit plan issuer; or

(2) by another entity, including a single service health maintenance organization, under contract with the [~~group~~] health benefit plan issuer.

SECTION 11. Section 1368.005(b), Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A [~~group~~] health benefit plan may set dollar or durational limits for coverage required under this chapter that are less favorable than for coverage provided for physical illness generally under the plan if those limits are sufficient to provide appropriate care and treatment under the guidelines and standards adopted under Section 1368.007. If guidelines and standards adopted under Section 1368.007 are not in effect, the dollar and durational limits may not be less favorable than for physical illness generally.

SECTION 12. Section 1355.007, Insurance Code, is repealed.

SECTION 13. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a health benefit plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020. A health benefit plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2020, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 14. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.