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HOUSE BILL 490

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Edward C. Sandoval

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE; CREATING A MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE PARITY
PILOT PROGRAM FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION;
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE PARITY PILOT PROGRAM.--The risk management division of the general services department shall implement and maintain for fiscal years 1999, 2000 and 2001 a mental health insurance parity pilot program providing behavioral health coverage for state employees. The pilot program shall ensure that an insured with a severe, persistent, biologically based mental illness receives appropriate quality and quantity of treatment on a parity with an insured with any other physical illness with respect to the terms, conditions, rates, benefits or requirements of the insurance contract. For purposes of this coverage, "severe, persistent, biologically based mental illness" means schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, panic disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder as defined in the leading international manuals on classification of diseases and diagnostic statistics but does not include eating disorders, gambling, alcohol or

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1 substance abuse.

2 Section 2. PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT.--If the contracts or contract
3 amendments establishing the mental health insurance parity pilot program authorized in Section
4 1 of this act are terminated prior to the end of fiscal year 2001, the general services department
5 shall reimburse the insurance provider any extraordinary expenses incurred in providing benefits
6 under the pilot program. The terms and limitations of this reimbursement shall be stated in the
7 contracts or contract amendments.

8 Section 3. EVALUATION--REPORT.--The risk management division of the general
9 services department shall, after consultation with representatives of the health insurance
10 industry; mental health providers, including those for state employees; and mental health
11 advocates, develop a program of evaluation for the mental health insurance parity pilot program
12 and shall report its findings and any legislative recommendations to the legislative health and
13 human services committee by October 1, 2000.

14 Section 4. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) is
15 appropriated from the general fund to the risk management division of the general services
16 department for expenditure in fiscal years 1999 through 2001 for the purpose of administering a
17 mental health insurance parity pilot program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
18 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2001 shall revert to the general fund.

19 Section 5. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that
20 this act take effect immediately.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
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6 February 23, 1999
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9 Mr. Speaker:

10 Your **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**, to whom has been
11 referred
12

13 **HOUSE BILL 490**
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**,
16 and thence referred to the **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE**
17 **COMMITTEE.**

18
19 Respectfully submitted,
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23 _____
24 **Debbie A. Rodella, Chairwoman**
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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

3 HB/C/HB 490

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5 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

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10 The roll call vote was 9 For 1 Against

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Yes: 9

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No: Lutz

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Excused: Sanchez

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Absent: Kissner

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