

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 21-0040.02 Christy Chase x2008

**HOUSE BILL 21-1068**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Michaelson Jenet and Titone, Weissman**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Moreno,**

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**House Committees**

Health & Insurance  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AN ANNUAL MENTAL**  
102                    **HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATION PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED**  
103                    **MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill adds a requirement, as part of mandatory health insurance coverage of preventive health care services, that health plans cover an annual mental health wellness examination of up to 60 minutes that is performed by a qualified mental health care provider. The coverage must:

- Be comparable to the coverage of a physical examination;

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

- Comply with the requirements of federal mental health parity laws; and
- Not require any deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance for the mental health wellness examination.

The coverage applies to plans issued on or after January 1, 2022.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Prevention and early identification of mental health issues can  
5 lead to better outcomes for families and all people throughout their lives;

6 (b) Mental health conditions that occur in youth before the age of  
7 six can interfere with emotional, cognitive, and physical development;

8 (c) The number of aging adults who have a mental health  
9 condition is expected to double to fifteen million in the next two decades,  
10 leading to increased health care use and higher health care costs;

11 (d) With an increase in suicide and the number of overdose deaths  
12 on the rise, it is imperative for Colorado to increase access to preventive  
13 annual mental health wellness examinations;

14 (e) Annual mental health wellness examinations help identify  
15 potential mental health issues early on and allow individuals to be offered  
16 services and supports to address their needs before an issue progresses or  
17 becomes a crisis;

18 (f) Primary care providers are important in early detection of  
19 mental health issues but often lack the ability to provide adequate  
20 education, consultation, and treatment options to clients in need of further  
21 mental health support; and

22 (g) Therefore, it is imperative that our health care system works  
23 to integrate and collocate mental health services in primary care settings

1 and opens access to annual mental health wellness examinations for all  
2 Coloradans, starting at the prenatal phase through the end of life.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-104, **amend**  
4 (18)(a)(I) introductory portion; and **add** (18)(b.7), (18)(c)(III.7), and  
5 (18)(c)(III.9) as follows:

6 **10-16-104. Mandatory coverage provisions - definitions -**  
7 **rules. (18) Preventive health care services.** (a) (I) The following  
8 policies and contracts that are ~~delivered~~, issued OR renewed ~~or reinstated~~  
9 ~~on or after January 1, 2010~~, IN THIS STATE must provide coverage for the  
10 total cost of the preventive health care services specified in ~~paragraph (b)~~  
11 ~~of this subsection (18)~~ SUBSECTIONS (18)(b) AND (18)(b.7) OF THIS  
12 SECTION:

13 (b.7) (I) FOR LARGE EMPLOYER POLICIES AND CONTRACTS ISSUED  
14 OR RENEWED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2022, AND FOR INDIVIDUAL AND  
15 SMALL GROUP POLICIES AND CONTRACTS ISSUED OR RENEWED ON OR  
16 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023, THE COVERAGE REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION  
17 (18) MUST INCLUDE AN ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS  
18 EXAMINATION OF UP TO SIXTY MINUTES THAT IS PERFORMED BY A  
19 QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. THE COVERAGE FOR AN  
20 ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATION MUST BE NO LESS  
21 EXTENSIVE THAN THE COVERAGE PROVIDED FOR A PHYSICAL  
22 EXAMINATION AND MUST COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
23 MHPAEA.

24 (II) THE DIVISION SHALL CONDUCT AN ACTUARIAL STUDY TO  
25 DETERMINE THE EFFECT, IF ANY, THE COVERAGE REQUIRED BY THIS  
26 SUBSECTION (18)(b.7) HAS ON PREMIUMS.

27 (c) For purposes of this subsection (18):

1 (III.7) "MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATION" MEANS AN  
2 EXAMINATION THAT SEEKS TO IDENTIFY ANY BEHAVIORAL OR MENTAL  
3 HEALTH NEEDS AND APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR TREATMENT. THE  
4 EXAMINATION MAY INCLUDE:

5 (A) OBSERVATION; A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENING;  
6 EDUCATION AND CONSULTATION ON HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHANGES;  
7 REFERRALS TO ONGOING TREATMENT, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND  
8 OTHER NECESSARY SUPPORTS; AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL OPTIONS  
9 FOR MEDICATION; AND

10 (B) AGE-APPROPRIATE SCREENINGS OR OBSERVATIONS TO  
11 UNDERSTAND A COVERED PERSON'S MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY, PERSONAL  
12 HISTORY, AND MENTAL OR COGNITIVE STATE AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE,  
13 RELEVANT ADULT INPUT THROUGH SCREENINGS, INTERVIEWS, AND  
14 QUESTIONS.

15 (III.9) "QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER" MEANS:

16 (A) A PHYSICIAN LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE PURSUANT TO  
17 ARTICLE 240 OF TITLE 12 WHO HAS SPECIFIC BOARD CERTIFICATION OR  
18 TRAINING IN PSYCHIATRY OR OTHER MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
19 CARE AREAS;

20 (B) A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 240  
21 OF TITLE 12 WHO HAS TRAINING IN PSYCHIATRY OR MENTAL HEALTH;

22 (C) A PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE  
23 245 OF TITLE 12;

24 (D) A CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 4  
25 OF ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

26 (E) A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO  
27 PART 5 OF ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

1 (F) A PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 6  
2 OF ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

3 (G) AN ADDICTION COUNSELOR LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 8 OF  
4 ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12; OR

5 (H) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE, AS DEFINED IN  
6 SECTION 12-255-104 (1), WITH SPECIFIC TRAINING IN PSYCHIATRIC  
7 NURSING.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-102, **add**  
9 (40.5) as follows:

10 **10-16-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 16, unless the  
11 context otherwise requires:

12 (40.5) (a) "LARGE EMPLOYER" MEANS ANY PERSON, FIRM,  
13 CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR ASSOCIATION THAT:

- 14 (I) IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN BUSINESS;
- 15 (II) EMPLOYED AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED  
16 ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ON BUSINESS DAYS DURING THE IMMEDIATELY  
17 PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION  
18 (40.5)(c) OF THIS SECTION; AND
- 19 (III) WAS NOT FORMED PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
20 PURCHASING INSURANCE.

21 (b) FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER AN EMPLOYER IS A  
22 "LARGE EMPLOYER", THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES IS  
23 CALCULATED USING THE METHOD SET FORTH IN 26 U.S.C. SEC. 4980H  
24 (c)(2)(E).

25 (c) IN THE CASE OF AN EMPLOYER THAT WAS NOT IN EXISTENCE  
26 THROUGHOUT THE PRECEDING CALENDAR QUARTER, THE DETERMINATION  
27 OF WHETHER THE EMPLOYER IS A LARGE EMPLOYER IS BASED ON THE

1 AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES THAT THE EMPLOYER IS REASONABLY  
2 EXPECTED TO EMPLOY ON BUSINESS DAYS IN THE CURRENT CALENDAR  
3 YEAR.

4 (d) THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYERS ARE SINGLE EMPLOYERS FOR  
5 PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

6 (I) A PERSON OR ENTITY THAT IS A SINGLE EMPLOYER PURSUANT  
7 TO 26 U.S.C. SEC. 414 (b), (c), (m), OR (o); AND

8 (II) AN EMPLOYER AND ANY PREDECESSOR EMPLOYER.

9 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.