

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 23-0181.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 23-1130**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Michaelson Jenet**, Young

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Rodriguez**, Buckner, Fields

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**House Committees**  
Health & Insurance

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE**  
102 **FOR SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.**

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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>.)*

With respect to step-therapy protocols (protocols) for health insurance, the bill defines "serious mental illness" and prohibits the protocols from requiring a person to try more than one prescription drug prior to receiving coverage for the drug recommended by the person's health-care provider. If certain conditions are met and attested to by the person's health-care provider, the carrier, private utilization review

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

organization, or pharmacy benefit manager must cover the drug recommended by the person's health-care provider.

The bill defines "serious mental illness" for purposes of the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act" in the same manner as the term is defined for commercial health insurance. The bill requires the medical services board to require a review for coverage of a new drug approved by the federal food and drug administration for a serious mental illness within 90 days after the drug is approved.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-145, **add**  
3 (1)(f.5) and (4.5) as follows:

4 **10-16-145. Step therapy - limitations - exceptions - definitions**  
5 **- rules.** (1) As used in this section:

6 (f.5) "SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS" MEANS THE FOLLOWING  
7 PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESSES, AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC  
8 ASSOCIATION IN THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND  
9 STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS:

10 (I) BIPOLAR DISORDERS (HYPOMANIC, MANIC, DEPRESSIVE, AND  
11 MIXED);

12 (II) DEPRESSION IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE;

13 (III) MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS (SINGLE EPISODE OR  
14 RECURRENT);

15 (IV) OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDERS;

16 (V) PARANOID AND OTHER PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS;

17 (VI) SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDERS (BIPOLAR OR DEPRESSIVE); AND

18 (VII) SCHIZOPHRENIA.

19 (4.5) WITH RESPECT TO A DRUG PRESCRIBED FOR SERIOUS MENTAL  
20 ILLNESS:

21 (a) IF A CARRIER, A PRIVATE UTILIZATION REVIEW ORGANIZATION,

1 OR A PBM REQUIRES STEP THERAPY, THE STEP THERAPY MAY ONLY  
2 REQUIRE A COVERED PERSON TO TRY ONE PRESCRIPTION DRUG OTHER  
3 THAN THE DRUG PRESCRIBED BY THE PROVIDER PRIOR TO PROVIDING  
4 COVERAGE TO THE COVERED PERSON FOR THE DRUG PRESCRIBED BY THE  
5 COVERED PERSON'S PROVIDER.

6 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (4.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION, IF  
7 A COVERED PERSON'S PROVIDER ATTESTS ON A FORM ESTABLISHED BY THE  
8 DIVISION THAT ANY OF THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (4)(a)(I)  
9 TO (4)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION ARE MET, THE CARRIER, PRIVATE  
10 UTILIZATION REVIEW ORGANIZATION, OR PBM MUST COVER THE DRUG  
11 PRESCRIBED BY THE COVERED PERSON'S PROVIDER WITHOUT REQUIRING  
12 STEP THERAPY.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-4-103, **add**  
14 (24.5) as follows:

15 **25.5-4-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 4 and articles 5  
16 and 6 of this title 25.5, unless the context otherwise requires:

17 (24.5) "SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS" MEANS THE FOLLOWING  
18 PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESSES, AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC  
19 ASSOCIATION IN THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND  
20 STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS:

21 (a) BIPOLAR DISORDERS (HYPOMANIC, MANIC, DEPRESSIVE, AND  
22 MIXED);

23 (b) DEPRESSION IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE;

24 (c) MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS (SINGLE EPISODE OR  
25 RECURRENT);

26 (d) OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDERS;

27 (e) PARANOID AND OTHER PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS;

1 (f) SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDERS (BIPOLAR OR DEPRESSIVE); AND  
2 (g) SCHIZOPHRENIA.

3 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25.5-5-514 as  
4 follows:

5 **25.5-5-514. Serious mental illness - prescribed drugs.**  
6 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 5 TO THE CONTRARY,  
7 AND SUBJECT TO ANY NECESSARY FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION, THE STATE  
8 BOARD SHALL REQUIRE A REVIEW FOR COVERAGE OF A NEW DRUG  
9 APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR A  
10 SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE APPROVAL OF  
11 THE DRUG.

12 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
15 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
16 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
17 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
18 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
19 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.