

WORKING DRAFT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Mental health insurance parity.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health insurance; mandating coverage for
2 specified mental illnesses under health insurance policies
3 issued in the state; specifying applicability; and
4 providing for an effective date.

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6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 26-20-301 is created to read:

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10

ARTICLE 3

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12

INSURANCE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

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26-20-301. Required provision of individual or group

15

policy or contract.

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2 (a) All individual or group health insurance policies
3 providing coverage on an expense incurred basis, individual
4 and group service or indemnity type health insurance
5 contracts issued by any insurer, including any nonprofit
6 corporation and individual and group service contracts
7 issued by a health maintenance organization, shall provide
8 coverage for the treatment of mental illness that is no
9 less extensive than the coverage provided for any other
10 physical illness. Private third party payors shall not
11 eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this section.

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13 (b) As used in this section, "mental illness" means
14 schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar affective
15 disorder, major depressive disorder, specific obsessive-
16 compulsive disorder, panic disorder and autism.

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18 **Section 2.** This act shall only apply to any
19 individual or group health insurance policy or plan that is
20 delivered, issued, renewed, modified, amended or extended
21 on or after July 1, 2006. The provisions of this act do
22 not supercede or take precedence over federal laws
23 governing health insurance plans.

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1 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)