

Senate File 478 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 478
BY TRONE GARRIOTT

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to Medicaid and children's health insurance
2 program coverage for mental health services provided in
3 school-based settings.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. MEDICAID AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
2 COVERAGE — MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN SCHOOL-BASED
3 SETTINGS.

4 1. The department of health and human services shall request
5 approval of any Medicaid state plan amendment, or other
6 amendments necessary, from the centers for Medicare and Medicaid
7 services of the United States department of health and human
8 services (CMS) to provide covered Medicaid and children's health
9 insurance program (CHIP) mental health services in school-based
10 settings regardless of formal mental health diagnosis as provided
11 under section 11003 of the federal Bipartisan Safer Communities
12 Act, Pub. L. No. 117-159, and in accordance with the guidance
13 published May 18, 2023, by CMS. At a minimum, the department of
14 health and human services shall include as covered mental health
15 services family, group, and individual therapy; prevention and
16 evaluation services; and case management. The covered services
17 shall be provided to all children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP
18 whether or not a child has an individualized education program or
19 plan.

20 2. The department of health and human services shall also
21 utilize assistance provided through the technical assistance
22 center established by the United States department of health and
23 human services in cooperation with the United States department
24 of education, and shall collaborate with local school districts
25 in developing the Medicaid state plan amendment, or other
26 necessary amendments, and in implementing the flexibilities and
27 requirements for the school-based services, especially in small,
28 rural, and under-resourced schools, to increase access to covered
29 services while ensuring fiscal and programmatic integrity.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill relates to Medicaid and children's health insurance
34 program (CHIP) coverage for mental health services provided in
35 school-based settings. The federal Bipartisan Safer Communities

1 Act, enacted in 2022, provided in part for more assistance
2 to states in facilitating Medicaid and CHIP coverage for
3 school-based Medicaid and CHIP services including preventive
4 care, behavioral health, physical and occupational therapy, and
5 disease management. The federal legislation also codified the
6 policy requiring that the services be available to all children
7 enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, not only to children with an
8 individualized education program or plan.

9 The bill requires the department of health and human services
10 (HHS) to request approval of any Medicaid state plan amendment,
11 or other amendments necessary, from the centers for Medicare and
12 Medicaid services of the United States department of health and
13 human services (CMS) to provide covered Medicaid and CHIP mental
14 health services in school-based settings regardless of formal
15 mental health diagnosis as provided in the federal legislation
16 and CMS guidance. The covered mental health services at a
17 minimum must include family, group, and individual therapy;
18 prevention and evaluation services; and case management.

19 The bill requires HHS to utilize available federal technical
20 assistance and to collaborate with local school districts
21 in developing the state plan amendment and other amendments
22 necessary, and in implementing the flexibilities and requirements
23 for the school-based services to increase access to covered
24 services while ensuring fiscal and programmatic integrity.