

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 350

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RIBACK WILSON (25),
DEEKEN AND HOLAND (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 3, 2003, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

0826L.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 376.779, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to insurance coverage for treatment of chemical dependency.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 376.779, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 376.779, to read as follows:

376.779. 1. All group health insurance policies providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis, all group service or indemnity contracts issued by a not-for-profit health service corporation, all self-insured group health benefit plans, of any type or description, and all such health plans or policies that are individually underwritten or provide for such coverage for specific individuals and the members of their families as nongroup policies, which provide for hospital treatment, shall provide coverage, while confined in a hospital or in a residential or nonresidential facility certified by the department of mental health, for treatment of [alcoholism] **chemical dependency, as defined in subdivision (1) of section 376.810**, on the same basis as coverage for any other illness, except that coverage may be limited to thirty days in any policy or contract benefit period. All Missouri group contracts issued or renewed, and all Missouri individual contracts issued on or after December 31, [1980] **2003**, shall be subject to this section. Coverage required by this section shall be included in the policy or contract and payment provided as for other coverage in the same policy or contract notwithstanding any construction or relationship of interdependent contracts or plans affecting coverage and payment of reimbursement prerequisites under the policy or contract.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is new proposed language.

16 2. Insurers, corporations or groups providing coverage may approve for payment or
17 reimbursement vendors and programs providing services or treatment required by this section.
18 Any vendor or person offering services or treatment subject to the provisions of this section and
19 seeking approval for payment or reimbursement shall submit to the department of mental health
20 a detailed description of the services or treatment program to be offered. The department of
21 mental health shall make copies of such descriptions available to insurers, corporations or groups
22 providing coverage under the provisions of this section. Each insurer, corporation or group
23 providing coverage shall notify the vendor or person offering service or treatment as to its
24 acceptance or rejection for payment or reimbursement; provided, however, payment or
25 reimbursement shall be made for any service or treatment program certified by the department
26 of mental health. Any notice of rejection shall contain a detailed statement of the reasons for
27 rejection and the steps and procedures necessary for acceptance. Amended descriptions of
28 services or treatment programs to be offered may be filed with the department of mental health.
29 Any vendor or person rejected for approval of payment or reimbursement may modify their
30 description and treatment program and submit copies of the amended description to the
31 department of mental health and to the insurer, corporation or group which rejected the original
32 description.

33 3. The department of mental health may issue rules necessary to carry out the provisions
34 of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of this section shall
35 become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of [section 536.024]
36 **chapter 536**, RSMo.

37 4. All substance abuse treatment programs in Missouri receiving funding from the
38 Missouri department of mental health must be certified by the department.