

HB 653 -- MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires a health insurance company to provide coverage to anyone determined to have a possible mental health disorder or mental illness for the purpose of diagnosing or assessing the extent such mental disorder or mental illness is affecting him or her. The coverage shall not be subject to any conditions of preapproval.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will strengthen mental health coverage and improve integrated care. It is essential to get a person with a mental health crisis in treatment as quickly as possible, and needing preapproval slows down the process.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Neely; Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Missouri State Medical Association; and Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.