

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1966

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETERS.

5135H.01I

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To amend chapter 376, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to insurance coverage of alternatives to opioid drugs.

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

Section A. Chapter 376, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 376.1280, to read as follows:

**376.1280. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

(1) "Acute pain", pain that results from disease, accidental or intentional trauma, or other causes, that a health care provider reasonably expects to last thirty days or fewer;

(2) "Enrollee", the same meaning given to the term in section 376.1350;

(3) "Health benefit plan", the same meaning given to the term in section 376.1350;

(4) "Health care professional", the same meaning given to the term in section 376.1350.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, when a licensed health care professional acting within the scope of his or her license prescribes a nonopioid medication for the treatment of acute pain to an enrollee, it shall be unlawful for a health benefit plan to:

(1) Deny coverage of the nonopioid prescription drug in favor of an opioid prescription drug;

(2) Require the enrollee to try an opioid prescription drug before providing coverage of the nonopioid prescription drug; or

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **(3) Require a higher level of cost-sharing for the nonopioid prescription drug**  
19 **than for an opioid prescription drug.**

20           **3. This section shall apply to health benefit plans delivered, issued for delivery,**  
21 **continued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027.**

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