SENATE BILL NO. XXX

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATOR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Introduced: 1/XX/2019**

**Referred: Health and Human Services, Labor and Commerce, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

**“An Act specifying coverage requirements for medications for the treatment of substance use disorders; and providing for an effective date.”**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

**\*Section 1.** AS 21.51 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 21.51.355. Medication-assisted treatment.** (a) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall not impose any prior authorization requirements on any prescription medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(b) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall not impose any step therapy requirements before the health care insurer will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(c) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall place all prescription medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders on the lowest tier of the drug formulary developed and maintained by the health care insurer.

(d) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall not exclude coverage for any prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders and any associated counseling or wraparound services on the grounds that such medications and services were court ordered.

**\*Sec. 2.** AS 21.54 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 21.54.153. Medication-assisted treatment.** (a) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the group market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall not impose any prior authorization requirements on any prescription medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(b) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall not impose any step therapy requirements before the health care insurer will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(c) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall place all prescription medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders on the lowest tier of the drug formulary developed and maintained by the health care insurer.

(d) Each health care insurer that offers a health care insurance plan in the individual market that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorder shall not exclude coverage for any prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders and any associated counseling or wraparound services on the grounds that such medications and services were court ordered.

**\* Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. This act applies to a health insurance plan, contract, or policy that is offered, issued for delivery, delivered, or renewed on or after the effective date of this act.

**\*Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2019.