\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To improve coverage of medications to treat substance use disorders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Behavioral Health Parity Act of 2019”.

Sec. 1. Definitions.

 For the purposes of this act, the term:

 (1) “Health insurer” or “insurer” shall have the same meaning as provided in § 31-3101(6B)

 (2) “Mental health and substance use disorder benefits” means benefits for the treatment of any condition or disorder that involves a mental health condition or substance use disorder that falls under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental disorders section of the current edition of the International Classification of Disease or that is listed in the mental disorders section of the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

 Sec. 2. Medications for the treatment of substance use disorders

 (a) Each health insurer that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders 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 insurer that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders shall not impose any step therapy requirements before the insurer will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(c) Each health insurer that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders 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 insurer.

(d) Each health insurer that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders 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. Rulemaking

The Mayor, pursuant to Title 1 of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code § 2-501 et seq.), may issue rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact a statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16,2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. official Code Section 1-201.47.

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.