H.XXX

Introduced by Representatives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; health insurance; substance use disorder treatment

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to specify coverage requirements for medications for the treatment of substance use disorder.

An Act relating to coverage for substance disorder treatment medications.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4089m is added to read:

§ 4089n. COVERAGE; MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT

 (a) As used in this section:

 (1) "Health insurance plan" means any health insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402. Health insurance plan includes any health benefit plan offered or administered by the State, or any subdivision or instrumentality of the State.

 (2) "Health insurer" means any health insurance company, nonprofit hospital and medical service corporation, managed care organizations, and, to the extent permitted under federal law, any administrator of an insured, self-insured, or publicly funded health care benefit plan offered by public and private entities.

 (b) All health insurers that offer individual and group health insurance plans that provide 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.

 (c) All health insurers that offer individual and group health insurance plans that provide prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders shall not impose any step therapy requirements before the health insurer will authorize coverage for a prescription medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of substance use disorders.

 (d) All health insurers that offer individual and group health insurance plans that provide 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 health insurer.

 (e) All health insurers that offer individual and group health insurance plans that provide 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. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.