



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 6643**

LCO No. 4072



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of  
2 Social Services shall provide Medicaid reimbursement, to the extent  
3 permissible under federal law, for suicide risk assessments and other  
4 mental health evaluations and services provided at a school-based  
5 health center or at a public school.

6 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid  
7 state plan if necessary to provide reimbursement for the suicide risk  
8 assessments and mental health evaluations and services described in  
9 subsection (a) of this section and shall set reimbursement at a level  
10 adequate to ensure an adequate pool of providers for such suicide risk  
11 assessments and mental health evaluations and services.

12 Sec. 2. Section 38a-488e of the general statutes is repealed and the

13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

14 (a) For the purposes of this section:

15 (1) "Licensed mental health professional" means: (A) A licensed  
16 professional counselor or professional counselor, both as defined in  
17 section 20-195aa; (B) a person who is under professional supervision, as  
18 defined in section 20-195aa; (C) a physician licensed pursuant to chapter  
19 370, who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry  
20 and Neurology; (D) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
21 pursuant to chapter 378, who is certified as a psychiatric and mental  
22 health clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American  
23 Nurses Credentialing Center; (E) a psychologist licensed pursuant to  
24 chapter 383; (F) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to  
25 chapter 383a; (G) a licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to  
26 chapter 383b; [or] (H) an alcohol and drug counselor licensed under  
27 chapter 376b; or (I) a licensed master social worker licensed pursuant to  
28 chapter 383b; and

29 (2) "Mental health wellness examination" means a screening or  
30 assessment that seeks to identify any behavioral or mental health needs  
31 and appropriate resources for treatment. The examination may include:  
32 (A) Observation; (B) a behavioral health screening; (C) education and  
33 consultation on healthy lifestyle changes; (D) referrals to ongoing  
34 treatment, mental health services and other necessary supports; (E)  
35 discussion of potential options for medication; (F) age-appropriate  
36 screenings or observations to understand the mental health history,  
37 personal history and mental or cognitive state of the person being  
38 examined; and (G) if appropriate, relevant input from an adult through  
39 screenings, interviews or questions. [;]

40 [(3) "Primary care provider" has the same meaning as provided in  
41 section 19a-7o; and

42 (4) "Primary care" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-  
43 7o.]

44 (b) (1) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of  
45 the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-  
46 469 and delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued  
47 in this state on or after January 1, 2023, (A) shall provide coverage for  
48 two mental health wellness examinations per year that are performed  
49 by a licensed mental health professional, [or primary care provider,] and  
50 (B) shall not require prior authorization of such examinations.

51 (2) The mental health wellness examinations [:(A) May each be  
52 provided by a primary care provider as part of a preventive visit; and  
53 (B)] shall be covered with no patient [cost-sharing] cost sharing.

54 (c) The provisions of this section shall apply to a high deductible  
55 health plan, as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-493, to  
56 the maximum extent permitted by federal law, except if such plan is  
57 used to establish a medical savings account or an Archer MSA pursuant  
58 to Section 220 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from  
59 time to time, or any subsequent corresponding Internal Revenue Code  
60 of the United States, as amended from time to time, or a health savings  
61 account pursuant to Section 223 of said Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
62 as amended from time to time, the provisions of this section shall apply  
63 to such plan to the maximum extent that (1) is permitted by federal law,  
64 and (2) does not disqualify such account for the deduction allowed  
65 under said Section 220 or 223, as applicable.

66 Sec. 3. Section 38a-514e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
67 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

68 (a) For the purposes of this section:

69 (1) "Licensed mental health professional" means: (A) A licensed  
70 professional counselor or professional counselor, as defined in section  
71 20-195aa; (B) a person who is under professional supervision, as defined  
72 in section 20-195aa; (C) a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370,  
73 who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and  
74 Neurology; (D) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant  
75 to chapter 378, who is certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical

76 nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses  
77 Credentialing Center; (E) a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter  
78 383; (F) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a;  
79 (G) a licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b;  
80 [or] (H) an alcohol and drug counselor licensed under chapter 376b; or  
81 (I) a licensed master social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b;  
82 and

83 (2) "Mental health wellness examination" means a screening or  
84 assessment that seeks to identify any behavioral or mental health needs  
85 and appropriate resources for treatment. The examination may include:  
86 (A) Observation; (B) a behavioral health screening; (C) education and  
87 consultation on healthy lifestyle changes; (D) referrals to ongoing  
88 treatment, mental health services and other necessary supports; (E)  
89 discussion of potential options for medication; (F) age-appropriate  
90 screenings or observations to understand the mental health history,  
91 personal history and mental or cognitive state of the person being  
92 examined; and (G) if appropriate, relevant input from an adult through  
93 screenings, interviews or questions. [;]

94 [(3) "Primary care provider" has the same meaning as provided in  
95 section 19a-7o; and

96 (4) "Primary care" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-  
97 7o.]

98 (b) (1) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the  
99 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
100 and delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in  
101 this state on or after January 1, 2023, (A) shall provide coverage for two  
102 mental health wellness examinations per year that are performed by a  
103 licensed mental health professional, [or primary care provider,] and (B)  
104 shall not require prior authorization of such examinations.

105 (2) The mental health wellness examinations [; (A) May each be  
106 provided by a primary care provider as part of a preventive visit; and  
107 (B)] shall be covered with no patient [cost-sharing] cost sharing.

108 (c) The provisions of this section shall apply to a high deductible  
109 health plan, as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-520, to  
110 the maximum extent permitted by federal law, except if such plan is  
111 used to establish a medical savings account or an Archer MSA pursuant  
112 to Section 220 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from  
113 time to time, or any subsequent corresponding Internal Revenue Code  
114 of the United States, as amended from time to time, or a health savings  
115 account pursuant to Section 223 of said Internal Revenue Code, as  
116 amended from time to time, the provisions of this section shall apply to  
117 such plan to the maximum extent that (1) is permitted by federal law,  
118 and (2) does not disqualify such account for the deduction allowed  
119 under said Section 220 or 223, as applicable.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	38a-488e
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	38a-514e

**Statement of Purpose:**

To authorize Medicaid reimbursement for suicide risk assessments and other mental health evaluations and services conducted at school-based health centers and public schools, and to eliminate the requirement that a mental health wellness examination be conducted by a primary care provider for purposes of insurance coverage.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*