

SENATE BILL 108

J5, J4

3lr0655

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Augustine**

Requested: November 1, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and**
3 **Reimbursement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and
5 health maintenance organizations to provide coverage and certain reimbursement
6 for annual behavioral health wellness visits; and generally relating to health
7 insurance carriers and coverage and reimbursement for behavioral health care
8 services.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Insurance

11 Section 15–859

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Insurance**

17 **15–859.**

18 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WELLNESS VISIT” MEANS A**
19 **COMPREHENSIVE VISIT TO ASSESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF**
20 **AN INDIVIDUAL THAT INCLUDES SCREENING AND, AS APPROPRIATE, BRIEF**
21 **INTERVENTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
22 **CARE SERVICES FOR THE PREVENTION OF AND EARLY INTERVENTION FOR**
23 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:**

2 **(1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT**
3 **PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**
4 **ON AN EXPENSE-INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR**
5 **CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND**

6 **(2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE**
7 **HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER**
8 **CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.**

9 **(C) (1) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE**
10 **COVERAGE FOR AN ANNUAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WELLNESS VISIT.**

11 **(2) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE**
12 **REIMBURSEMENT FOR AN ANNUAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WELLNESS VISIT ON THE**
13 **SAME BASIS AND AT THE SAME RATE AS AN ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT FOR SOMATIC**
14 **HEALTH.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all
16 policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or
17 after January 1, 2024.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 January 1, 2024.