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SB-428 Health care coverage: adverse childhood experiences screenings. (2021-2022)

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Senate Bill No. 428

CHAPTER 641

An act to add Section 1367.34 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10123.51 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

[Approved by Governor October 07, 2021. Filed with Secretary of State October 07, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 428, Hurtado. Health care coverage: adverse childhood experiences screenings.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to provide coverage for specified benefits, including for mental health services.

This bill would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022, that provides coverage for pediatric services and preventive care to additionally include coverage for adverse childhood experiences screenings. The bill would authorize each department to adopt guidance to implement this provision. Because a willful violation of these provisions by a health care service plan would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 1367.34 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1367.34. (a) A health care service plan contract issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022, that provides coverage for pediatric services and preventive care, as required by this chapter, including Sections 1367.002 and 1367.005, shall additionally include coverage for adverse childhood experiences screenings. This section does not prohibit a health care service plan from applying cost-sharing requirements as authorized by law.

(b) For purposes of this section, "adverse childhood experiences," or "ACEs," means an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting

adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

(c) The department may adopt guidance to health care service plans to implement this section. The guidance shall not be subject to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The departmental guidance shall apply the rules and regulations for screening for trauma as set forth in the Medi-Cal program as the minimum ACEs coverage requirements for health care service plans. This section does not prohibit a health care service plan from exceeding the Medi-Cal program's rules and regulations for trauma screening.

SEC. 2. Section 10123.51 is added to the Insurance Code, to read:

10123.51. (a) A health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022, that provides coverage for pediatric services and preventive care, as required by this chapter, including Sections 10112.2 and 10112.27, shall additionally include coverage for adverse childhood experiences screenings. This section does not prohibit a health insurer from applying cost-sharing requirements as authorized by law.

(b) For purposes of this section, "adverse childhood experiences," or "ACEs," means an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

(c) The department may adopt guidance to health insurers to implement this section. The guidance shall not be subject to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The departmental guidance shall apply the rules and regulations for screening for trauma as set forth in the Medi-Cal program as the minimum ACEs coverage requirements for health insurers. This section does not prohibit a health insurer from exceeding the Medi-Cal program's rules and regulations for trauma screening.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.