
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF MANDATING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ANNUAL
MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Mental
2 Health, approximately one in five Americans experience a mental
3 illness or disorder each year; and
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5 WHEREAS, less than half of those experiencing a mental
6 illness or disorder receive mental health services, such as
7 counseling or prescription medication; and
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9 WHEREAS, health insurers are currently not required to
10 cover annual mental health wellness examinations; and
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12 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 728, introduced during the Regular
13 Session of 2021, and S.B. No. 2467, S.D. 2, introduced during
14 the Regular Session of 2022, require health insurers, mutual
15 benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations that
16 provide coverage for health care to provide coverage for annual
17 mental health wellness examinations; and
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19 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised
20 Statutes, before any legislative measures that mandate health
21 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
22 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
23 of individual or group health insurance policies can be
24 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed that
25 designate a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to review
26 and on which to prepare a report for submission to the
27 Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects
28 of the proposed mandated coverage, and S.B. No. 728, Regular
29 Session of 2021, and S.B. No. 2467, S.D. 2, Regular Session of
30 2022, are such measures; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
4 requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant to sections 23-51
5 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial
6 effects of mandating health insurance coverage for annual mental
7 health wellness examinations, as proposed in S.B. No. 728,
8 Regular Session of 2021, and S.B. No. 2467, S.D. 2, Regular
9 Session of 2022; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
12 define "mental health wellness examination", similar to the
13 manner by which annual physical examinations administered by
14 primary care providers are established, to allow health insurers
15 to determine coverage requirements; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
18 include in the impact assessment report a survey of other states
19 in the United States that have implemented a mandate for annual
20 mental health wellness examination benefits and to examine the
21 resulting social and financial impact in those states; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
24 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
25 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
26 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
27 2023; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and
31 Insurance Commissioner.

