

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 846 Medicaid/Psychiatric Disabilities by Senator Rich

Authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration to contract with a specialty provider service network that exclusively enrolls Medicaid beneficiaries who have psychiatric disabilities. Requires the specialty provider to offer the same physical and behavioral health services that are required from other Medicaid health maintenance organizations and provider service networks. Requires that beneficiaries having psychiatric disabilities who are required but fail to select a managed care plan be assigned to a specialty provider service network in those geographic areas where a specialty provider network is available.

Requires that the agency modify eligibility assignment processes for managed care pilot programs to include specialty plans that specialize in care for beneficiaries who have psychiatric disabilities. Requires the agency to provide a service delivery alternative to provide Medicaid services to persons having psychiatric disabilities. Provides additional criterion for the agency in making assignments including, but not limited to, the extent of the psychiatric disability and assessment of the disability before making an assignment. Requires that enrollment and choice counseling materials contain an explanation concerning the choice of a network or plan. Provides for an additional open enrollment period following the availability of specialty services. (See bill for details)