Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) shall not restrict by prior authorization any prescription drug prescribed to an adult patient and determined by a prescribing practitioner licensed by the state to be medically necessary for the treatment and prevention of schizophrenia and schizotypal or delusion disorders, including but not limited to first episode psychosis, under 2 conditions. The specific conditions include a) if during the preceding year, the patient was prescribed and unsuccessfully treated with a 14 day treatment trial of the prescribed drug included on the single preferred drug list for which a claim was paid, and b) the patient has previously been prescribed and obtained prior authorization for the non-preferred prescribed drug.

Proposed law provides relative to prior authorization of prescription drugs. (8/1/22)

**EXPENDITURES EXPLANATION**

Information provided by the LDH Legal indicates this measure is largely aligned with the current prior authorization process, thus will not result in any fiscal impact to the Medicaid pharmacy program. The bill does not appear to eliminate the initial prior authorization process, but extends the time frame (currently 1 year) applicable to future prior authorizations for specific drugs under certain conditions. This measure prohibits any restriction, by prior authorization, of any prescription drug prescribed to an adult patient and determined by a licensed prescriber to be medically necessary for and prevention of schizophrenia and schizotypal or delusion disorders under certain conditions, including that the patient has previously been prescribed and obtained prior authorization for a non-preferred drug.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.