

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 224

BY SENATOR OWEN

PHARMACEUTICALS. Provides relative to opioid alternatives. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:153.3.2, relative to opioid alternatives; to provide relative to coverage for  
3 nonopioid and opioid prescription drugs by Medicaid managed care organizations;  
4 to provide for duties of the Louisiana Department of Health; to require the  
5 department to perform certain functions relative to opioid alternatives; and to provide  
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 46:153.3.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§153.3.2. Medicaid prescription medication for chronic or acute pain; opioid**  
10 **alternatives**

11 **A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a Medicaid**  
12 **managed care organization shall not deny coverage of a nonopioid prescription**  
13 **drug in favor of an opioid prescription drug when a licensed physician has**  
14 **prescribed a nonopioid medication for the treatment of chronic or acute pain.**

15 **B. The department shall not establish more restrictive or more extensive**  
16 **utilization controls, including but not limited to more restrictive or more**  
17 **extensive prior authorization or step therapy requirements, for clinically**

1 **appropriate nonopioid drugs than the least restrictive or extensive utilization**  
 2 **controls applicable to any clinically appropriate opioid or narcotic drug.**

3 **C. The department shall:**

4 **(1) Provide education, awareness, and technical assistance on the**  
 5 **advantages of nonopioid alternative drugs.**

6 **(2) Collaborate with political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and**  
 7 **other state agencies to seek funding opportunities for educational and health**  
 8 **care services related to nonopioid alternatives.**

9 **(3) Assist, upon request, political subdivisions that receive opioid grant**  
 10 **awards as a result of any money obtained through a settlement or judgment by**  
 11 **the attorney general on behalf of this state related to opioid litigation involving**  
 12 **pharmaceutical supply chain participants.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

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DIGEST

SB 224 Engrossed

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Owen

Proposed law provides for prohibitions and requirements for Medicaid managed care organizations regarding coverage for nonopioid and opioid prescription drugs.

Proposed law provides for duties of the Louisiana Department of Health regarding nonopioid education and awareness, collaboration regarding funding opportunities, and assistance to political subdivision that receive opioid grant awards through opioid settlements.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 46:153.3.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Removes certain requirements requiring the coverage of nonopioid drugs.
2. Removes requirements for the department to support programs that include strategies, programming, and services to promote opioid alternatives.