

SENATE BILL NO. 224

BY SENATOR OWEN

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

20 **C. The department shall:**

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

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

26 **(3) Assist, upon request, political subdivisions that receive opioid grant**

1 **awards as a result of any money obtained through a settlement or judgment by**
2 **the attorney general on behalf of this state related to opioid litigation involving**
3 **pharmaceutical supply chain participants.**

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____