

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: \_\_\_\_\_