LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Retroactive Increase in Patient Rates for Certain Mental Health Services]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to retroactively increase patient rates charged for mental health care.

Existing Law

Section 128 of the Health Code sets the reasonable amounts to be charged to persons for services furnished by the Department of Public Health.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed amendments to Section 128 increase certain rates retroactively to reflect the State’s change in methodology for calculating reimbursements for certain mental health services.

Background Information

Patient rates are being revised mid-fiscal year due to a change in the rate methodology used by the State to reimburse Short Doyle Medi-Cal mental health services. In the past, Short Doyle Medi-Cal mental health services were capped at a State Maximum Allowed (SMA) reimbursement. The Department of Health Care Services recently published a new rate methodology using county-specific interim reimbursement rates which are based on historical costs. Interim rates for San Francisco for outpatient mental health services are significantly higher than the prior year SMA. As a result, the patient rates for these services require amendment for fiscal years 2012-13, and 2013-2014, retroactive to July 1, 2012. Patient rates are the Usual and Customary Rates (UCR) used for Community Behavioral Health Services.