

A6056 Gottfried Same as S 5956-A RIVERA

Social Services Law

TITLE. ...Relates to allowing physician assistants to serve as primary care practitioners for purposes of Medicaid managed care plans

03/05/21 referred to health
05/20/21 reported referred to ways and means
01/05/22 referred to ways and means
04/25/22 reported
04/28/22 advanced to third reading cal.536
05/03/22 substituted by s5956a

S05956 RIVERA AMEND=A

03/24/21 REFERRED TO HEALTH
04/23/21 AMEND AND RECOMMIT TO HEALTH
04/23/21 PRINT NUMBER 5956A
01/05/22 REFERRED TO HEALTH
02/01/22 1ST REPORT CAL.407
02/02/22 2ND REPORT CAL.
02/03/22 ADVANCED TO THIRD READING
02/15/22 PASSED SENATE
02/15/22 DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY
02/15/22 referred to ways and means
05/03/22 substituted for a6056
05/03/22 ordered to third reading cal.536
05/25/22 passed assembly
05/25/22 returned to senate

GOTTFRIED, SIMON, BARRON, GALEF, BRONSON, JACKSON

Amd §364-j, Soc Serv L

Allows physician assistants to serve as primary care practitioners for purposes of Medicaid managed care plans.

STATE OF NEW YORK

6056

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 5, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing physi-
cian assistants to serve as primary care practitioners for purposes of
Medicaid managed care plans

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 1 of section 364-j of the
2 social services law, as amended by chapter 649 of the laws of 1996, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (f) "Primary care practitioner". A physician, physician assistant, or
5 nurse practitioner providing primary care to and management of the
6 medical and health care services of a participant served by a managed
7 care provider.

8 § 2. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section
9 364-j of the social services law, as amended by section 14 of part C of
10 chapter 58 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

11 (i) a managed care provider shall arrange for access to and enrollment
12 of primary care practitioners and other medical services providers. Each
13 managed care provider shall possess the expertise and sufficient
14 resources to assure the delivery of quality medical care to participants
15 in an appropriate and timely manner and may include physicians, physi-
16 cian assistants, nurse practitioners, county health departments, provid-
17 ers of comprehensive health service plans licensed pursuant to article
18 forty-four of the public health law, and hospitals and diagnostic and
19 treatment centers licensed pursuant to article twenty-eight of the
20 public health law or otherwise authorized by law to offer comprehensive
21 health services or facilities licensed pursuant to articles sixteen,
22 thirty-one and thirty-two of the mental hygiene law.

23 § 3. This act shall become effective immediately; provided however,
24 that the amendments to section 364-j of the social services law made by
25 sections one and two of this act shall not affect the repeal of such
26 section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09714-01-1

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)**

BILL NUMBER: A6056

SPONSOR: Gottfried

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing physician assistants to serve as primary care practitioners for purposes of Medicaid managed care plans

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This legislation amends the provisions of the social services law to allow physician assistants to be recognized as primary care providers for the purpose of providing access to care for Medicaid managed care beneficiaries.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

Section one of the bill amends subpart (f) of subsection one of section 364-J of the social services law to include physician assistants in the definition of "primary care practitioner."

Section two of the bill amends subsection four of section 364-J of the social services law to include physician assistants as primary care practitioners.

Section three of the bill is the effective date. JUSTIFICATION: Physician assistants must undergo a rigorous course of medical education and training and are authorized to practice in any medical field doctors are trained in, including but not limited to, primary care. Physician assistants develop these competencies working with physicians and in a team-based care environment. Unfortunately, the current statutory language defining primary care practitioners in the New York state Medicaid program excludes physician assistants from serving as primary care practitioners.

Even before the COVID-9 pandemic there was a deficit of primary care practitioners across the state and that shortfall has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Expanding the definition of primary care practitioners to include physician assistants would be a meaningful way to expand access to primary care by qualified providers.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

New bill

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

To be determined. Potential savings to the Medicaid program due to increased access to preventive care provided by primary care practitioners.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect immediately.