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Synopsis of House Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the House Floor.)

S.B. 81 of the 135th General Assembly House Health Provider Services

Elizabeth Molnar, Attorney

Authority to sign documents relating to psychiatric inpatient admission, treatment, and discharge

Removes Senate-passed provisions authorizing a physician assistant, if certain conditions are met, to sign documents relating to a hospital patient's admission, treatment, and discharge and replaces them with provisions limiting physician assistant signing authority to documents concerning the admission, treatment, and discharge of a health care facility inpatient receiving psychiatric or other behavioral health care services. (Mirrors the bill's provisions governing the signing authority of a certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner.)

Board of Nursing – impairment monitoring

Adds provisions regarding the Board of Nursing's existing Substance Use Disorder Monitoring Program that replaces the program with the Safe Haven Program, a program to monitor applicant and practitioner impairment resulting from not only substance use, but also mental or physical disability.

Requires the Safe Haven Program to be conducted by a monitoring organization under contract with the Board and places duties on the organization, including receiving reports of impairment, determining applicant and practitioner eligibility for program participation, and monitoring participant treatment and compliance.

Insurance navigators

Adds provisions that revise existing law under which an insurance navigator is prohibited from receiving financial compensation from a health insurer offering insurance through an exchange operating in Ohio, by limiting the prohibition's application to compensation received in connection with the enrollment of employees or other individuals in a qualified health benefit plan. (Aligns Ohio's law governing insurance navigators with federal law, which authorizes navigators to receive compensation from insurers so long as it is not in connection with enrollment.)