Florida Senate - 2005

By Senator Geller

31-124-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to health insurance coverage
3	for autism spectrum disorder; requiring a
4	health insurer or health maintenance
5	organization that offers major medical coverage
6	to include coverage for treating autism
7	spectrum disorder; defining the term "autism
8	spectrum disorder"; authorizing an insurer or
9	health maintenance organization to confirm a
10	diagnosis or review the appropriateness of a
11	treatment plan; limiting the amount of annual
12	coverage; providing that the act does not
13	affect the licensure of a health care
14	professional or impair the right to
15	reimbursement of a health care provider; making
16	a legislative finding that the act fulfills an
17	important state interest; providing an
18	effective date.
19	
20	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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22	Section 1. <u>Health insurance coverage for autism</u>
23	<u>spectrum disorder</u>
24	<u>(1)(a) As used in this section, the term "autism</u>
25	spectrum disorder means a neurobiological condition that
26	includes autism, Asperger syndrome, and Rett's syndrome.
27	(b) Any health insurer or health maintenance
28	organization that issues major medical expense coverage in
29	this state may not exclude coverage prescribed by the
30	referring physician for the treatment of autism spectrum
31	disorder, including, but not limited to, coverage for

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

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1 therapeutic evaluations and interventions, speech therapy, 2 occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive early intervention, applied behavioral analysis, and Lovaas 3 behavioral therapy. 4 5 (2) Coverage for autism spectrum disorder is subject 6 to the same terms and conditions that the insurer or health 7 maintenance organization applies to the treatment of other 8 disorders. However, an insurer or health maintenance organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the 9 10 appropriateness of a specific treatment plan in order to ensure that coverage under this section is limited to 11 12 diagnostic and treatment services. The total annual payments by a health insurer or 13 (3) health maintenance organization for coverage under this 14 section may not exceed \$10,000. 15 16 (4) This section does not affect the scope of licensure of any health care professional and does not impair 18 any right to reimbursement which is otherwise quaranteed to a health care provider. 19 Section 2. The Legislature finds that the provisions 20 21 of this act fulfill an important state interest. 2.2 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005. 23 2.4 25 SENATE SUMMARY 26 Requires a health insurer or health maintenance organization to include autism spectrum disorders within 27 the coverage for major medical expenses. Requires coverage for certain types of evaluations and 28 interventions for such disorders. Authorizes the insurer or health maintenance organization to confirm a diagnosis 29 or review the appropriateness of treatment. Limits the coverage to \$10,000 per year. Provides that the act does not affect the scope of a health care professional's

licensure or impair a health care provider's right to 31 reimbursement.

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