Florida Senate - 2006

By Senator Geller

31-263A-06

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

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intervention, applied behavioral analysis, and Lovass behavioral therapy. (2) Coverage for autism spectrum disorder for a minor is subject to the same terms and conditions that the insurer or health maintenance organization applies to the treatment of other disorders. However, an insurer or health maintenance organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the appropriateness of a specific treatment plan in order to ensure that coverage under this section is limited to diagnostic and treatment services. (3) The total annual payments by a health insurer or health maintenance organization for coverage for a minor under this section may not exceed \$10,000. (4) This section does not affect the scope of licensure of any health care professional and does not impair any right to reimbursement which is otherwise guaranteed to a health care provider. Section 2. The Legislature finds that the provisions of this act fulfill an important state interest. Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006. mation to include the treatment of a minor for autism spectrum disorders within the coverage for major mical expenses. Requires coverage for certain types of evaluations and interventions for such disorders.	1	occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive early
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