By Senator Geller

31-523-07

 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. Health insurance coverage for autism
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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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

 1 | occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive early

 2 | intervention, applied behavioral analysis, and Lovaas

 3 | behavioral therapy.

 4 | (2) Coverage for autism spectrum disorder for a minor

 5 | is subject to the same terms and conditions that the insurer

 6 | or health maintenance organization applies to the treatment of

 7 | other disorders. However, an insurer or health maintenance

 8 | organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the

 9 | appropriateness of a specific treatment plan in order to

10 | ensure that coverage under this section is limited to

11 | diagnostic and treatment services.

12 | (3) The total annual payments by a health insurer or

13 | health maintenance organization for coverage for a minor under

14 | this section may not exceed $10,000.

15 | (4) This section does not affect the scope of

16 | licensure of any health care professional and does not impair

17 | any right to reimbursement which is otherwise guaranteed to a

18 | health care provider.

19 | Section 2. The Legislature finds that the provisions

20 | of this act fulfill an important state interest.

21 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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24 | SENATE SUMMARY

25 | Requires a health insurer or health maintenance
   | organization to include the treatment of a minor for

26 | autism spectrum disorder within the coverage for major
   | medical expenses. Requires coverage for certain types of

27 | evaluations and interventions for such disorders.
   | Authorizes the insurer or health maintenance organization

28 | to confirm a diagnosis or review the appropriateness of
   | treatment. Limits the coverage to $10,000 per year.

29 | Provides that the act does not affect the scope of a
   | health care professional's licensure or impair a health

30 | care provider's right to reimbursement.

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