

By the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and Senators Scott, Silver, Forman, Geller, Campbell, Latvala and Gutman

311-1627-99

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; providing that the act does not  
 12          affect the licensure of a health care  
 13          professional or impair the right to  
 14          reimbursement of a health care provider; making  
 15          a legislative finding that the act fulfills an  
 16          important state interest; providing an  
 17          effective date.

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 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" is a neurobiological condition that  
 25 includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome, or  
 26 pervasive developmental disorder, as those disorders occur in  
 27 various degrees of severity.

28           (b) Any health insurer or health maintenance  
 29 organization that issues major medical expense coverage in  
 30 this state may not exclude coverage prescribed by the  
 31 referring physician for the treatment of autism spectrum

1 disorder, including, but not limited to, coverage for  
2 therapeutic evaluations and interventions, such as speech  
3 therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive  
4 early intervention, applied behavioral analysis, and Lovaas  
5 behavioral therapy.

6 (2) Coverage for autism spectrum disorder is subject  
7 to the same terms and conditions that the insurer or health  
8 maintenance organization applies to the treatment of other  
9 disorders. However, an insurer or health maintenance  
10 organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the  
11 appropriateness of a specific treatment plan in order to  
12 ensure that coverage under this section is limited to  
13 diagnostic and treatment services.

14 (3) This section does not affect the scope of  
15 licensure of any health care professional and does not impair  
16 any right to reimbursement which is otherwise guaranteed to a  
17 health care provider.

18 Section 2. The Legislature finds that the provisions  
19 of this act fulfill an important state interest.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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22 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
23 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
24 Senate Bill 272

25 Makes a legislative finding that the provisions of this bill  
26 fulfill an important state interest.  
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