

By Representative Crow

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;  
 15          providing a legislative finding; providing an  
 16          effective date.

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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20           Section 1. Health insurance coverage for autism  
 21 spectrum disorder.--

22           (1)(a) As used in this section, the term "autism  
 23 spectrum disorder" is a neurobiological condition that  
 24 includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome, or  
 25 pervasive developmental disorder, as those disorders occur in  
 26 various degrees of severity.

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

1 therapeutic evaluations and interventions, such as speech  
2 therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive  
3 early intervention, applied behavioral analysis, and Lovaas  
4 behavioral therapy.

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  
9 organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the  
10 appropriateness of a specific treatment plan in order to  
11 ensure that coverage under this section is limited to  
12 diagnostic and treatment services.

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

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

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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22 HOUSE SUMMARY

23 Requires that a health insurer or health maintenance  
24 organization include coverage for autism spectrum  
25 expenses. Requires that such coverage include coverage  
26 for certain types of evaluations and interventions.  
27 Provides that the insurer or health maintenance  
28 organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the  
29 appropriateness of treatment. Provides that the act does  
30 not affect the scope of a health care professional's  
31 licensure or impair a health care provider's right to  
reimbursement.