

By Representative Farkas

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to mental illness health
3 insurance; amending s. 627.6685, F.S.;
4 extending applicability; requiring the Office
5 of Legislative Services to contract for
6 completion of a report on proposed health
7 benefit coverage for serious mental illness;
8 providing a definition; specifying report
9 review requirements; providing an effective
10 date.

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

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14 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 627.6685, Florida
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 627.6685 Mental health coverage.--

17 (5) DURATION.--This section does not apply to benefits
18 for services furnished on or after September 30, 2003 ~~2001~~.

19 Section 2. Using a portion of the funds made available
20 in Specific Appropriation 2556 in the General Appropriations
21 Act for fiscal year 2001-2002, the Office of Legislative
22 Services shall contract for the completion of a report
23 assessing the impact of proposed mandated health coverage
24 specific to mental health services for persons with a serious
25 mental illness. For purposes of this section, the term
26 "serious mental illness" means any mental illness that is
27 recognized in the edition of relevant manuals of the American
28 Psychiatric Association or by the International Classification
29 of Diseases in effect on October 1, 2000, and affirmed by
30 medical science as caused by biological disorder of the brain
31 and that substantially limits the life activities of the

1 patient. The term includes, but is not limited to,
2 schizophrenia, autism, schizoaffective disorders, anxiety and
3 panic, bipolar affective disorders, major depression, and
4 obsessive compulsive disorder. Such review shall include:
5 (1) Those elements for review as specified in s.
6 624.215(2), Florida Statutes, relating to proposals for
7 legislation which mandate health benefit coverage and review
8 by the Legislature.
9 (2) The nature of those services being used by those
10 insured persons who currently have a mental illness coverage
11 benefit, including what is included in such coverage, the
12 conditions for which coverage is included, the extent to which
13 such covered persons reach any applicable annual or lifetime
14 benefit cap, utilization and authorization guidelines
15 applicable to such coverage, and inclusion of treatment
16 medications and guidelines applicable to medication coverage.

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
18 law.

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21 HOUSE SUMMARY

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23 Extending for 2 years application of provisions for
24 mental health insurance coverage. Requires the Office of
25 Legislative Services to contract for completion of a
26 report on proposed health benefit coverage for serious
27 mental illness and specifies report review requirements.
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