

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; 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" 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 autism spectrum
 30 disorder, including, but not limited to, coverage for
 31 therapeutic evaluations and interventions, such as speech

1 therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive
2 early intervention, applied behavioral analysis, and
3 behavioral therapy.

4 (2) Coverage for autism spectrum disorder is subject
5 to the same terms and conditions that the insurer or health
6 maintenance organization applies to the treatment of other
7 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) This section does not affect the scope of
13 licensure of any health care professional and does not impair
14 any right to reimbursement which is otherwise guaranteed to a
15 health care provider.

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

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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21 HOUSE SUMMARY

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