

HB 1273

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder; requiring a health insurer or health maintenance organization that offers major medical coverage to include coverage for treating autism spectrum disorder; defining the term "autism spectrum disorder"; authorizing an insurer or health maintenance organization to confirm a diagnosis or review the appropriateness of a treatment plan; limiting the amount of annual coverage; providing that the act does not affect the licensure of a health care professional or impair the right to reimbursement of a health care provider; making a legislative finding that the act fulfills an important state interest; providing an effective date.

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

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

(1)(a) As used in this section, the term "autism spectrum disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes autism, Asperger syndrome, and Rett's syndrome.

(b) Any health insurer or health maintenance organization that issues major medical expense coverage in this state may not exclude coverage prescribed by the referring physician for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, including, but not limited to, coverage for therapeutic evaluations and interventions, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical

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29 therapy, intensive early intervention, applied behavioral
 30 analysis, and Lovaas behavioral therapy.

31 (2) Coverage for autism spectrum disorder is subject to
 32 the same terms and conditions that the insurer or health
 33 maintenance organization applies to the treatment of other
 34 disorders. However, an insurer or health maintenance
 35 organization may confirm a diagnosis or review the
 36 appropriateness of a specific treatment plan in order to ensure
 37 that coverage under this section is limited to diagnostic and
 38 treatment services.

39 (3) The total annual payments by a health insurer or
 40 health maintenance organization for coverage under this section
 41 may not exceed \$6,000.

42 (4) This section does not affect the scope of licensure of
 43 any health care professional and does not impair any right to
 44 reimbursement which is otherwise guaranteed to a health care
 45 provider.

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

48 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.