By Senator Dawson

29-03579A-08

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies; repealing s. 409.912(12), F.S., which requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to establish a postpayment utilization control program designed to identify recipients who may inappropriately overuse or underuse Medicaid services; creating s. 627.66912, F.S.; prohibiting a health insurance policy that covers occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies from limiting such services if they are medically necessary; amending s. 641.31, F.S.; prohibiting a health maintenance organization that covers occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies from limiting such services if they are medically necessary; providing an effective date.

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

2.1

Section 1. <u>Subsection (12) of s. 409.912, Florida Statutes,</u> is repealed.

Section 2. Section 627.66912, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

627.66912 Required coverage for occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies.—A health insurance policy that covers occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies may not limit the amounts of such services if prescribed by a treating physician or surgeon licensed in this state and such physician or surgeon certifies that such services are medically necessary and consequent to ensure rehabilitation

29-03579A-08 20082446

of a condition caused by an injury or disease. The coverage required by this section is subject to the terms and conditions applicable to other benefits. This section does not apply to specified-accident, specified-disease, hospital indemnity, limited benefit disability income, or long-term care insurance policies.

Section 3. Subsection (41) is added to section 641.31, Florida Statutes, to read:

641.31 Health maintenance contracts.--

(41) Each health maintenance contract that provide coverage for occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies may not limit the amounts of such services if prescribed by a treating physician or surgeon licensed in this state, and such physician or surgeon certifies that such services are medically necessary and consequent to ensure rehabilitation of a condition caused by an injury or disease. The coverage required by this subsection is subject to terms and conditions applicable to other benefits.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.