

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to health insurance coverage for  
 3           individuals with developmental disabilities; amending  
 4           ss. 627.6686 and 641.31098, F.S.; revising the  
 5           definitions of the terms "autism spectrum disorder"  
 6           and "eligible individual"; reenacting ss. 409.906(26)  
 7           and 943.1727, F.S., relating to optional Medicaid  
 8           services and continued employment training relating to  
 9           autism spectrum disorder, respectively, to incorporate  
 10          the amendment made to s. 627.6686, F.S., in references  
 11          thereto; providing an effective date.

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

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 15           **Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of**  
 16 **section 627.6686, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

17           627.6686 Coverage for individuals with autism spectrum  
 18 disorder required; exception.—

19           (2) As used in this section, the term:

20           (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" has the same meaning as  
 21 ~~means any of the following disorders as~~ defined in the most  
 22 recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
 23 Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association:

- 24           1. ~~Autistic disorder.~~  
 25           2. ~~Asperger's syndrome.~~

26 ~~3. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise~~  
 27 ~~specified.~~

28 (c) "Eligible individual" means an individual ~~under 18~~  
 29 ~~years of age or an individual 18 years of age or older who is in~~  
 30 ~~high school~~ who has been diagnosed as having a developmental  
 31 ~~disability at 8 years of age or younger.~~

32 **Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of**  
 33 **section 641.31098, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

34 641.31098 Coverage for individuals with developmental  
 35 disabilities.-

36 (2) As used in this section, the term:

37 (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" has the same meaning as  
 38 ~~means any of the following disorders as~~ defined in the most  
 39 recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
 40 Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association~~;~~

41 ~~1. Autistic disorder.~~

42 ~~2. Asperger's syndrome.~~

43 ~~3. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise~~  
 44 ~~specified.~~

45 (c) "Eligible individual" means an individual ~~under 18~~  
 46 ~~years of age or an individual 18 years of age or older who is in~~  
 47 ~~high school~~ who has been diagnosed as having a developmental  
 48 ~~disability at 8 years of age or younger.~~

49 **Section 3.** For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
 50 made by this act to section 627.6686, Florida Statutes, in a

51 reference thereto, subsection (26) of section 409.906, Florida  
 52 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

53       409.906 Optional Medicaid services.—Subject to specific  
 54 appropriations, the agency may make payments for services which  
 55 are optional to the state under Title XIX of the Social Security  
 56 Act and are furnished by Medicaid providers to recipients who  
 57 are determined to be eligible on the dates on which the services  
 58 were provided. Any optional service that is provided shall be  
 59 provided only when medically necessary and in accordance with  
 60 state and federal law. Optional services rendered by providers  
 61 in mobile units to Medicaid recipients may be restricted or  
 62 prohibited by the agency. Nothing in this section shall be  
 63 construed to prevent or limit the agency from adjusting fees,  
 64 reimbursement rates, lengths of stay, number of visits, or  
 65 number of services, or making any other adjustments necessary to  
 66 comply with the availability of moneys and any limitations or  
 67 directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act or  
 68 chapter 216. If necessary to safeguard the state's systems of  
 69 providing services to elderly and disabled persons and subject  
 70 to the notice and review provisions of s. 216.177, the Governor  
 71 may direct the Agency for Health Care Administration to amend  
 72 the Medicaid state plan to delete the optional Medicaid service  
 73 known as "Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally  
 74 Disabled." Optional services may include:

75           (26) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM

76 DISORDER AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—The agency is  
77 authorized to seek federal approval through a Medicaid waiver or  
78 a state plan amendment for the provision of occupational  
79 therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, behavior analysis,  
80 and behavior assistant services to individuals who are 5 years  
81 of age and under and have a diagnosed developmental disability  
82 as defined in s. 393.063, autism spectrum disorder as defined in  
83 s. 627.6686, or Down syndrome, a genetic disorder caused by the  
84 presence of extra chromosomal material on chromosome 21. Causes  
85 of the syndrome may include Trisomy 21, Mosaicism, Robertsonian  
86 Translocation, and other duplications of a portion of chromosome  
87 21. Coverage for such services shall be limited to \$36,000  
88 annually and may not exceed \$108,000 in total lifetime benefits.  
89 The agency shall submit an annual report on January 1 to the  
90 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
91 Representatives, and the relevant committees of the Senate and  
92 the House of Representatives regarding progress on obtaining  
93 federal approval and recommendations for the implementation of  
94 these home and community-based services. The agency may not  
95 implement this subsection without prior legislative approval.

96 **Section 4.** For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
97 made by this act to section 627.6686, Florida Statutes, in a  
98 reference thereto, section 943.1727, Florida Statutes, is  
99 reenacted to read:

100 943.1727 Continued employment training relating to autism

101 spectrum disorder.—The department shall establish a continued  
102 employment training component relating to autism spectrum  
103 disorder as defined in s. 627.6686. The training component shall  
104 include, but need not be limited to, instruction on the  
105 recognition of the symptoms and characteristics of an individual  
106 on the autism disorder spectrum and appropriate responses to an  
107 individual exhibiting such symptoms and characteristics.  
108 Completion of the training component may count toward the 40  
109 hours of instruction for continued employment or appointment as  
110 a law enforcement officer required under s. 943.135.

111 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.