

House Bill 565 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Burkhalter of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Lord of the 121<sup>st</sup> and Harbin of the 113<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 insurance generally, so as to provide that accident and sickness contracts, policies, and  
3 benefit plans that provide coverage for neurological disorders shall not deny such benefits  
4 based upon a diagnosis of autism; to provide definitions; to provide for related matters; to  
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance  
9 generally, is amended by adding a new Code Section 33-24-59.9 to read as follows:

10 "33-24-59.9.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Accident and sickness contract, policy, or benefit plan' shall have the same meaning  
13 as found in Code Section 33-24-59.1.

14 (2) 'Autism' means a developmental neurological disorder, usually appearing in the first  
15 three years of life, which affects normal brain functions and is manifested by compulsive,  
16 ritualistic behavior and severely impaired social interaction and communication skills.

17 (b) An insurer that provides benefits for neurological disorders, whether under a group or  
18 individual accident and sickness contract, policy, or benefit plan, shall not deny providing  
19 benefits in accordance with the conditions, schedule of benefits, limitations as to type and  
20 scope of treatment authorized for neurological disorders, exclusions, cost-sharing  
21 arrangements, or copayment requirements which exist in such contract, policy, or benefit  
22 plan for neurological disorders because of a diagnosis of autism. The provisions of this  
23 subsection shall not expand the type or scope of treatment beyond that authorized for any  
24 other diagnosed neurological disorder."

- 1 **SECTION 2.**
- 2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.