

House Bill 776

By: Representatives Beasley-Teague of the 65th and Thomas of the 56th

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 general insurance provisions, so as to provide that no health benefit plan shall refuse to pay
3 or otherwise reimburse for a peroral endoscopic myotomy surgical procedure for the
4 treatment of achalasia; to provide for definitions; to provide for limitations; to provide for
5 related matters; to 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 general
9 insurance provisions, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "33-24-59.20.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, 'health benefit plan' means any hospital, health, or medical
12 expense insurance policy, hospital or medical service contract, employee welfare benefit
13 plan, contract or agreement with a health maintenance organization, subscriber contract or
14 agreement, preferred provider organization, accident and sickness insurance benefit plan,
15 or other insurance contract under any other name. The term shall include any health
16 insurance plan established under Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 and under Article 7 of
17 Chapter 4 of Title 49, the 'Georgia Medical Assistance Act of 1977.'

18 (b) No health benefit policy issued, delivered, or renewed in this state that, as a provision
19 of its hospital, medical, or surgical services, directly or indirectly covers the treatment and
20 management of achalasia shall limit or exclude coverage of a peroral endoscopic myotomy
21 surgical treatment on the basis that such surgical treatment is an experimental or
22 investigational medical treatment."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.