

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE TO SENATE BILL 118

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 33-24-59.10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 coverage for autism, so as to change the age limit for coverage for autism spectrum disorders
3 for an individual covered under a policy or contract; to clarify treatment coverage; to change
4 coverage limit; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 33-24-59.10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to coverage
9 for autism, is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:

10 "(b) Accident and sickness contracts, policies, or benefit plans shall provide coverage for
11 autism spectrum disorders for an individual covered under a policy or contract who is ~~six~~
12 20 years of age or under in accordance with the following:

13 (1) The policy or contract shall provide coverage for any assessments, evaluations, or
14 tests by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist to diagnose whether an individual
15 has an autism spectrum disorder;

16 (2) The policy or contract shall provide coverage for applied behavior analysis for the
17 treatment of autism spectrum disorders when it is determined by ~~a licensed physician or~~
18 ~~licensed psychologist~~ the covering entity that the treatment is medically necessary health
19 care according to established criteria. A licensed physician or licensed psychologist may
20 be required to demonstrate ongoing medical necessity for coverage provided under this
21 Code section at least annually;

22 (3) The policy or contract shall not include any limits on the number of visits;

23 (4) The policy or contract may limit coverage for applied behavior analysis to
24 ~~\$30,000.00~~ \$35,000.00 per year. An insurer shall not apply payments for coverage
25 unrelated to autism spectrum disorders to any maximum benefit established under this
26 paragraph; and

27 (5) This subsection shall not be construed to require coverage for prescription drugs if
28 prescription drug coverage is not provided by the policy or contract. ~~Coverage for~~
29 ~~prescription drugs for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders shall be determined in~~
30 ~~the same manner as coverage for prescription drugs for the treatment of any other illness~~
31 ~~or condition is determined under the policy or contract."~~

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 This Act shall become effective January 1, 2019.

34 **SECTION 3.**

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