

Senate Bill 28

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Albers of the 56th, Rahman of the 5th and Harbison of the 15th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions regarding insurance generally, so as to prohibit certain insurers  
3 from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or office visit charge in an amount greater than  
4 such charges imposed for physician or osteopath services to an insured for services rendered  
5 by a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or chiropractor; to provide for a definition;  
6 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 general provisions regarding insurance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section  
11 to read as follows:

12 "33-24-59.25.

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

20 (b) No health benefit plan issued, delivered, or renewed in this state shall impose a  
21 different or additional copayment, coinsurance, or office visit charge to an insured when  
22 he or she obtains the services of a licensed physical therapist, a licensed occupational  
23 therapist, or a licensed chiropractor than when such insured obtains the services of a  
24 primary care physician or licensed osteopath."

25

**SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.