

3405--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 18, 2011

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance -- recommitted to the Committee on Insurance in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to establishing an advisory panel on health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The insurance law is amended by adding a new section 342
2 to read as follows:
3 S 342. COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. (A) (1) THERE IS HEREBY
4 ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AN ADVISORY PANEL ON HEALTH INSURANCE
5 COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. SUCH PANEL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF
6 NINE MEMBERS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN HEALTH CARE AND APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:
7 SEVEN MEMBERS WHO ARE OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
8 OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH OR THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
9 DISABILITIES SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND THE TEMPORARY PRES-
10 IDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY SHALL EACH APPOINT A
11 MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN AUTISM ADVOCACY GROUP. EACH MEMBER
12 SHALL SERVE A TERM OF TWO YEARS. THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR
13 OF THE PANEL FROM AMONG HIS OR HER APPOINTEES. VACANCIES IN THE MEMBER-
14 SHIP OF THE PANEL SHALL BE FILLED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED FOR ORIGINAL
15 APPOINTMENTS.
16 (2) THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR
17 SERVICES BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES
18 INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION.
19 (3) THE ADVISORY PANEL ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPEC-
20 TRUM DISORDER SHALL ANNUALLY, ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER FIRST, COMPILE AND
21 SUBMIT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT A LIST OF SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT AND THERAPY
22 OPTIONS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE COVERED

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH TWENTY-FIVE OF SUBSECTION (I) OF SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN, PARAGRAPH SEVENTEEN OF SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE AND SUBSECTION (EE) OF SECTION FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THREE OF THIS CHAPTER.

(4) WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF RECEIPT OF EACH LIST SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH THREE OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL, ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS, PROMULGATE AND IMPLEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS REQUIRING COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT AND THERAPY OPTIONS INCLUDED IN EACH SUCH LIST.

(B) (1) WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE INITIAL LIST TO THE SUPERINTENDENT PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH THREE OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND OPERATE AN AUTISM AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE HOTLINE. THE HOTLINE SHALL BE A TOLL-FREE, TWENTY-FOUR HOUR A DAY CONSUMER CALL CENTER FOR FAMILIES WITH AUTISTIC CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLAINTS ABOUT OR QUESTIONS ON INSURERS AND COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. ALL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY SUCH HOTLINE SHALL BE DOCUMENTED AND REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH A QUALIFIED NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR THE PROVISION AND OPERATION OF THE HOTLINE REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION. ANY SUCH CONTRACT SHALL ONLY BE AWARDED AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONDUCTED A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION WHICH HAS THE RESOURCES AND ABILITY TO OPERATE A STATEWIDE HOTLINE, AND IS STAFFED BY EMPLOYEES AND/OR VOLUNTEERS WITH STRONG EXPERIENCE IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

(3) IF THE DEPARTMENT ELECTS TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE THE HOTLINE USING ITS OWN PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES, SUCH HOTLINE SHALL BE STAFFED BY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WITH STRONG EXPERIENCE IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. UNTIL THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE ESTABLISHED CIVIL SERVICE TITLES AND COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS AS EMPLOYEES OF THE HOTLINE, THE SUPERINTENDENT IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO APPOINT AND EMPLOY SUCH QUALIFIED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AS SHALL BE NECESSARY TO OPERATE THE AUTISM AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE HOTLINE.

(4) THE SUPERINTENDENT IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE AND IMPLEMENT ANY RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

S 2. Paragraph 25 of subsection (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law, as added by chapter 557 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(25) Every policy which provides coverage for hospital, surgical, or medical care coverage shall [not exclude] INCLUDE FULL coverage for THE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, diagnosis and treatment of [medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy solely because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat] autism spectrum disorder. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder.

S 3. Subparagraph (A) of paragraph 25 of subsection (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 595 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(A) Every policy which provides coverage for hospital or surgical coverage shall [not exclude] INCLUDE FULL coverage for [screening,] THE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, diagnosis and treatment of [medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy solely because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat] autism spectrum disorder.

1 S 4. Paragraph 17 of subsection (1) of section 3221 of the insurance
2 law, as added by chapter 557 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (17) A group or blanket accident or health insurance policy or issuing
5 a group or blanket policy for delivery in this state which provides
6 coverage for hospital, surgical, or medical care coverage shall [not
7 exclude] INCLUDE FULL coverage for THE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION,
8 diagnosis and treatment of [medical conditions otherwise covered by the
9 policy because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat] autism
10 spectrum disorder. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum disorder"
11 means a neurobiological condition that includes autism, Asperger
12 syndrome, Rett's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder.

13 S 5. Subparagraph (A) of paragraph 17 of subsection (1) of section
14 3221 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 595 of the laws of
15 2011, is amended to read as follows:

16 (A) Every group or blanket accident and health insurance policy delivered
17 or issued for delivery in this state which provides coverage for
18 hospital or surgical care coverage shall [not exclude] INCLUDE FULL
19 coverage for [screening,] THE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, diagnosis and
20 treatment of [medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy because
21 the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat] autism spectrum disorder.
22

23 S 6. Subsection (ee) of section 4303 of the insurance law, as added by
24 chapter 557 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

25 (ee) A medical expense indemnity corporation, a hospital service
26 corporation or a health service corporation which provides coverage for
27 hospital, surgical, or medical care coverage shall [not exclude] INCLUDE
28 FULL coverage for THE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, diagnosis and treatment
29 of [medical conditions otherwise covered by the policy solely
30 because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat] autism spectrum
31 disorder. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum disorder" means
32 a neurobiological condition that includes autism, Asperger syndrome,
33 Rett's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder.

34 S 7. Paragraph 1 of subsection (ee) of section 4303 of the insurance
35 law, as amended by chapter 596 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) A medical expense indemnity corporation, a hospital service corporation
38 or a health service corporation which provides coverage for
39 hospital or surgical care coverage shall [not exclude] INCLUDE FULL
40 coverage for [screening,] THE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, diagnosis and
41 treatment of medical conditions otherwise covered by the contract solely
42 because the treatment is provided to diagnose or treat autism spectrum
43 disorder.

44 S 8. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
45 have become a law; provided, however, that sections three, five and
46 seven of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
47 manner as chapter 595 of the laws of 2011, as amended, takes effect.