

The House Committee on Insurance offers the following substitute to SB 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 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.