

Senate Bill 164

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Albers of the 56th, Shafer of the 48th and Williams of the 27th

AS PASSED SENATE

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 prohibit certain insurers from imposing a copayment,
3 coinsurance, or office visit deductible amount greater than such charges imposed on a
4 physician or an osteopath to an insured for services rendered by a physical therapist, an
5 occupational therapist, or chiropractor; to provide for a definition; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

11 "33-24-59.21.

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

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

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.