

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 2714

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to group health benefit plan coverage for speech,  
language, or hearing impairments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1365.003, Insurance Code, is amended to  
read as follows:

Sec. 1365.003. ~~[OFFER OF]~~ COVERAGE REQUIRED. (a) A group  
health benefit plan issuer shall provide ~~[offer and make available  
under the plan]~~ coverage for the necessary care and treatment of  
loss or impairment of speech, language, or hearing.

(b) Coverage required under this section:

(1) may not be less favorable than coverage for  
physical illness generally under the plan; and

(2) must be subject to the same durational limits,  
dollar limits, deductibles, and coinsurance factors as coverage for  
physical illness generally under the plan.

SECTION 2. Section 1365.004, Insurance Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3. This Act applies only to an insurance policy or  
contract or evidence of coverage that is delivered, issued for  
delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2010. An insurance  
policy or contract or evidence of coverage delivered, issued for  
delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2010, is governed by the law  
as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and  
that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1       SECTION 4.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.