

By: Allen

H.B. No. 1744

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health benefit plan coverage for certain children
diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 1355.015(b) and (c), Insurance Code,
are amended to read as follows:

(b) The health benefit plan must provide coverage under this
section to the enrollee for all generally recognized services
prescribed in relation to autism spectrum disorder by the
enrollee's primary care physician in the treatment plan developed
~~[recommended]~~ by that physician in consultation with the enrollee's
parent or guardian. An individual providing treatment prescribed
under this subsection must be a health care practitioner:

(1) who is licensed, certified, or registered by an
appropriate agency of this state;

(2) whose professional credential is recognized and
accepted by an appropriate agency of the United States; or

(3) who is certified as a provider under the TRICARE
military health system.

(c) For purposes of Subsection (b), "generally recognized
services" may include services such as:

(1) evaluation and assessment services;

(2) applied behavior analysis;

(3) behavior training and behavior management;

- 1 (4) speech therapy;
- 2 (5) occupational therapy;
- 3 (6) physical therapy; ~~[or]~~
- 4 (7) therapy to develop appropriate social, emotional,
- 5 and interpersonal skills; or
- 6 (8) medications or nutritional supplements used to
- 7 address symptoms of autism spectrum disorder.

8 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only

9 to a health benefit plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, or

10 renewed on or after January 1, 2012. A health benefit plan that is

11 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2012,

12 is covered by the law in effect at the time the health benefit plan

13 is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed, and that law is

14 continued in effect for that purpose.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.