

House Bill 1484

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Bennett of the 94th, Gravley of the 67th, Cooper of the 43rd, Greene of the 151st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for a three-year pilot program to
3 provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric
4 disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset
5 neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the Medicaid program; to provide for agreements;
6 to provide for an annual report; to provide for related matters; to provide for automatic
7 repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 medical assistance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "49-4-159.2.

13 (a) Subject to available funding, the department shall conduct a three-year pilot program
14 beginning January 1, 2023, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric
15 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS)
16 and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the medical assistance
17 program. Such diagnosis and treatment shall include, but shall not be limited to, the use

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18 of intravenous immune globulin therapy when such therapy is prescribed by a physician
19 and is in keeping with the consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of
20 PANDAS or PANS as published in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.
21 Participation in the pilot program shall be limited to no more than 100 individuals per year,
22 to be selected in a manner determined by the department.

23 (b) The department is authorized to enter into an agreement with a patient advocacy
24 organization in order to create outreach materials for distribution to participating Medicaid
25 general and subspecialist pediatric providers in this state informing such providers about
26 the pilot and how to code claims for analysis by the department. Such agreement shall also
27 provide funding for educational resources to be made available to such providers
28 exemplifying how to recognize, diagnose, and treat PANDAS and PANS.

29 (c) The department shall provide an initial report by December 31, 2023, and annually
30 thereafter, to the chairpersons of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and
31 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Such report shall include, at a
32 minimum:

33 (1) The total number of participants in the pilot program;

34 (2) The total number of claims;

35 (3) The specific treatments covered in claims;

36 (4) Total cost of claims; and

37 (5) Number of providers.

38 (d) This Code section shall stand repealed on December 31, 2026."

39 **SECTION 2.**

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