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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION

**HOUSE FILE No. 1656**

March 12, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to insurance; specifying required behavioral health coverage for children  
1.3 and young adults who have autism spectrum disorder; proposing coding for new  
1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62Q.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[62Q.472] AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; INCLUSION IN AND**  
1.7 **PARITY OF COVERAGE REQUIRED.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in  
1.9 this subdivision have the meanings given.

1.10 (b) "Autism spectrum disorders" or "ASD" means one or more of the following  
1.11 conditions as determined by the criteria set forth in the most recent edition of the  
1.12 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric  
1.13 Association (DSM-IV Manual):

1.14 (1) autism or autistic disorder;

1.15 (2) Asperger's syndrome;

1.16 (3) Fragile X syndrome;

1.17 (4) Rett's syndrome;

1.18 (5) childhood disintegrative disorder; or

1.19 (6) pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise specified.

1.20 (b) "Generally recognized services for treatment of autism spectrum disorder"  
1.21 includes, but is not limited to:

1.22 (1) evaluation and assessment services;

1.23 (2) applied behavioral analysis;

1.24 (3) behavior training and behavior management;

2.1 (4) speech therapy;

2.2 (5) occupational therapy;

2.3 (6) physical therapy; and

2.4 (7) medications and nutritional supplements.

2.5 Subd. 2. **Parity required.** (a) Health plan coverage of treatment for autism  
2.6 spectrum disorders, to the extent that the treatment consists of mental health services, is  
2.7 subject to section 62Q.47. This section does not limit coverage required under section  
2.8 62Q.47 that applies to autism spectrum disorders.

2.9 (b) Health plan coverage of treatment for autism spectrum disorders, to the extent  
2.10 the treatment does not consist of mental health services, is subject to this subdivision and  
2.11 must comply with the parity requirements of section 62Q.47 on the same basis as mental  
2.12 health services, except as otherwise expressly provided in this section.

2.13 Subd. 3. **Coverage specifications.** Coverage required under subdivision 2,  
2.14 paragraph (b):

2.15 (1) must cover all generally recognized services related to autism spectrum disorder;

2.16 (2) may be limited to patients who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at  
2.17 age 25 or younger;

2.18 (3) may end at age 25; and

2.19 (4) may be limited to treatment prescribed by the patient's licensed health care  
2.20 provider under a treatment plan approved by the health plan company.

2.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2009, and applies to  
2.22 coverage offered, sold, issued, or renewed on or after that date.