

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Buckley
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Westlund

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 16 – 1 – 4

House – Yeas: Galizio, Garrard, Hanna, Jenson, Morgan, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields
– Nays:

– Exc: D. Edwards

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund

– Nays: Whitsett

– Exc: Carter, Gordly, Winters

Prepared By: Dawn Farr, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/21/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Specifies that health benefit plans may not deny benefits to an individual who is covered under the plan due to the diagnosis of pervasive developmental disorder; specifies that treatment of a pervasive developmental disorder is subject to the same requirements of the plan that applies to physical illness, including copayments, coinsurance or deductibles; limits coverage to a child enrolled in a plan who is under 18; establishes definitions; directs the Health Resources Commission to review medical and behavioral health evidence on the treatment of pervasive developmental disorders; directs the Health Resources Commission to report to the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly; and exempts these provisions from the automatic repeal provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impacts and bill funding

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Limits coverage to a child enrolled in a plan who is under 18; limits coverage to provisions of health benefit plan; and defines rehabilitation services.

BACKGROUND: The diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) was first used in the 1980s to describe a class of disorders characterized by impairments in social interaction, imaginative activity, verbal and nonverbal communication skills, and a limited number of interests and activities that tend to be repetitive. All types of PDD are neurological disorders that are usually evident by age 3. Generally, children who have a type of PDD have difficulty in talking, playing with other children, and relating to others, including their family. The five types of PDD are: 1) autistic disorder; 2) Rett's disorder; 3) childhood disintegrative disorder; 4) Asperger's disorder; and 5) pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.