

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Weidner, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Tyler Larson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires health benefit plan that provides coverage for hospital, surgical or medical care cover screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Prohibits application of dollar limits, deductibles, copayments or coinsurance provisions to coverage of autism spectrum disorders. Allows insurer to review medical necessity determination. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of the bill

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Autism is a group of brain disorders, collectively called autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The term “spectrum” refers to the wide range of symptoms, skills and levels of disability children with ASD can experience. Intervention and treatment plans are tailored to address the unique situation of each individual, and can involve behavioral and treatments, medicines or both. Various interventions and supports may become appropriate as a child develops and acquires social and learning skills. According to the *New York Times*, direct medical and nonmedical costs to treat ASD can be as much as \$72,000 annually for extreme cases and up to \$67,000 a year for individuals on the lower end of the spectrum.

House Bill 2897 requires health insurance plans to cover the screening, diagnosis and treatment of ASD and prohibits cost sharing for covered treatments.

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*