

HB 1412 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Finds that access to appropriate early intervention services significantly improves function in children with developmental delays and developmental disabilities. Health care services, including neurodevelopmental therapies, are an essential component of early intervention services.

Requires each health plan offered to public employees and their covered dependents under chapter 41.05 RCW that is established or renewed on or after January 1, 2011, to include coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals under eighteen years of age.

Requires all group health benefit plans entered into, or renewed, on or after January 1, 2011, to include coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals under twenty-one years of age.

Directs the department of health to: (1) Conduct a review under chapter 18.120 RCW to determine the most appropriate means to regulate persons who utilize applied behavior analysis for the treatment of persons with an autism spectrum disorder. In developing its recommendations, the department shall consult with interested organizations and shall give strong consideration to certification criteria established by the institute for applied behavior analysis; and

(2) Identify therapies for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders in individuals under eighteen years of age that should be considered to be in accordance with generally accepted standards of practice, as that term is defined in section 2 (5) and section 3 (5) of the act.

Provides an effective date of January 1, 2011, for section 6 of the act.