

HB 1412-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

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 eighteen years of age.

Directs the department of health to: (1) Conduct a review under chapter 18.120 RCW (regulation of health professions--criteria) to determine the most appropriate means to regulate persons who utilize applied behavior analysis for the treatment of persons with an autism spectrum disorder; and

(2) Establish a process to periodically review credible sources of scientific evidence related to effective therapies for treatment of individuals under eighteen years of age with autism spectrum disorder.