

# WHAT IS FLORIDA'S AUTISM INSURANCE LAW?



Florida's Autism Insurance Law has several limitations, including age, which was commonly included by states as an attempt to control costs for health plans.

HB 377 (Tant)  
SB 756 (Burton)

Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Revise the definitions related to health insurance coverage for individuals with "autism spectrum disorder" to match the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the American Psychiatric Association. Expand the definition of "eligible individual" to expand criteria by removing the limitation of being diagnosed by age 8. Focus on the diagnosis of a developmental disability without specifying the age at diagnosis.

ADDRESS THE AGE ISSUE OF DIAGNOSIS for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

- ✓ The diagnosis age requirement is an especially concerning limitation because about a third of those with autism are not diagnosed by age 8 – and that percentage is even higher for girls.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Appropriate treatment for newly diagnosed children is critical to their development into productive members of society as well as avoidance of future costly health care and mental health care interventions.
- ✓ Treatments like therapy and applied behavior analysis (ABA) can help people with autism improve their skills and quality of life and avoid the Baker Act, hospitalization, or imprisonment.

<sup>1</sup>Kennedy Krieger Institute. (2013). Study on gender differences in autism diagnosis. Retrieved from [URL]: (Kennedy Krieger Institute, 2013)

The Arc of Florida supports this legislation.

