



SF 2349 – Autism Insurance Coverage for State Employees (LSB 1118SV)
Analyst: Joseph Brandstatter (Phone: 515-281-8223) (joseph.brandstatter@legis.state.ia.us)
Fiscal Note Version – New
Requested by Senator Tom Rielly

Description

Senate File 2349 creates requirements for certain group health insurance policies, contracts, or plans to provide coverage benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The requirements are applicable only to State employee policies. Benefits are required for covered individuals under 21 years of age. The Bill specifies that the maximum coverage amount is not to exceed \$36,000 annually. The Insurance Commissioner is required to adopt rules for the certification of behavior specialists that design, implement, or evaluate behavior modification intervention components of treatment plans for Autism Spectrum Disorders and are developed by a licensed physician or psychologist.

Background

Coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders is currently provided under the State of Iowa employee plan provisions. Under the proposed legislation, the definition of Autism Spectrum Disorders and treatments is broadened.

Assumptions

- The Department of Administrative Services which administers the State employee plan offered by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield has indicated premium costs would rise less than 0.05% or \$52,000 for FY 2011 and subsequent fiscal years.
- The Board of Regents estimates additional costs in medical claims to be \$80,000 in FY 2011 and subsequent fiscal years.
- The Insurance Division would need to add 1.0 FTE position that is qualified to certify health care specialists. The Division does not have the expertise to meet this requirement with current staffing.

Fiscal Impact

Senate File 2349 is estimated to increase General Fund expenditures by \$132,000 for FY 2011 and subsequent fiscal years for the cost of additional claims. The Insurance Division would add 1.0 FTE position at the cost of \$60,000 and would be funded by other funds.

Sources

Department of Administrative Services, Iowa Insurance Division, Iowa Board of Regents, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

February 22, 2010

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to **Joint Rule 17**. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
