

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1911

As Passed House:

March 12, 2001

Title: An act relating to insurance coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies.

Brief Description: Requiring coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies.

Sponsors: By Representatives Reardon, Cody, Santos and Ballasiotes.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/20/01, 2/22/01 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/12/01, 98-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Health plans for public employees and employer-sponsored group policies will provide coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals, regardless of age.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives Campbell, Republican Co-Chair; Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Skinner, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Conway, Darneille, Edmonds, Edwards, Marine, McMorris, Pennington and Ruderman.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Currently, health plans for state employees and employer-sponsored group policies provide coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals age 6 and under. A recent sunrise report by the Department of Health recommended that the age limitation for coverage of neurodevelopmental therapies be dropped.

Summary of Bill:

Health plans for public employees and employer-sponsored group policies will provide coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals, regardless of age.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Insurance coverage of neurodevelopmental therapies should be continued beyond a child's sixth birthday. Schools are not equipped to provide all these services for older children.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (In support) Representative Reardon, prime sponsor; Leanne Roe; Kathy Stewart, Washington Occupational Therapy Association; Becky Gibson, Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children; Steve Boruchowitz, Department of Health; and Christie Perkins, Washington State Special Education Coalition.

(In support with concerns) Scott Boettcher; and Kristin Hennessey..