The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

An Act relative to insurance coverage for autism..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
- 2 following section:-
- 3 Section 25. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context
- 4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-
- 5 "Actuary", a person who is a member of American Academy of Actuaries and meets
- 6 Academy's professional qualification standards for rendering an actuarial opinion related to
- 7 health insurance rate making,
- 8 "Applied behavior analysis", the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental
- 9 modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant
- improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and
- functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.
- "Autism services provider", a person, entity or group that provides treatment of autism
- 13 spectrum disorders.

"Autism spectrum disorders", any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders as defined
by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,
including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not
Otherwise Specified.

"Board certified behavior analyst", a behavior analyst credentialed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as a board certified behavior analyst.

"Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders", medically necessary assessments, evaluations including neuropsychological evaluations, genetic testing or other tests to diagnose whether an individual has 1 of the autism spectrum disorders.

"Habilitative or rehabilitative care", professional, counseling and guidance services and treatment programs, including but not limited to, applied behavior analysis supervised by a board certified behavior analyst, that are necessary to develop, maintain and restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.

"Pharmacy care", medications prescribed by a licensed physician and health-related services deemed medically necessary to determine the need or effectiveness of the medications, to the same extent that pharmacy care is provided by the insurance policy for other medical conditions.

"Psychiatric care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist practices.

"Psychological care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychologist practices.

35 "Therapeutic care", services provided by licensed or certified speech therapists,36 occupational therapists, physical therapists or social workers.

"Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders", includes the following care prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with 1 of the autism spectrum disorders by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary: habilitative or rehabilitative care; pharmacy care; psychiatric care; psychological care; and therapeutic care.

- (b) The commission shall provide to an active or retired employee of the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in individuals.
- (c) A health plan provided by the commission shall be in compliance with subsection (b) if the plan does not contain any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders which is less than any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation imposed on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of physical conditions.
- (d) This section shall not limit benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under a health insurance policy.
- (e) Coverage under this section shall not be subject to any limits on the number of visits an individual may make to an autism services provider.
- (f) This section shall not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program or an individualized

service plan. Services related to autism spectrum disorder provided by school personnel pursuant to an individualized education program are not subject to reimbursement under this section.

- (g) An insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall be exempt from providing coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section and not covered by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization as of December 31, 2010, if:
- (1) an actuary, affiliated with the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization certifies in writing to the commissioner of insurance that:
- (i) based on an analysis to be completed by each insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization for the most recent experience period of at least 1 year's duration, the costs associated with coverage of habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section, and not covered as of December 31, 2010, exceeded 1 per cent of the premiums charged over the experience period by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization;
- (ii) those costs solely would lead to an increase in average premiums charged of more than 1 per cent for all insurance policies, subscription contracts or health care plans commencing on inception or the next renewal date, based on the premium rating methodology and practices the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization employs; and
 - (iii) the commissioner of insurance approves the certification of the actuary.
- (2) Notwithstanding the exemption allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization may elect to continue to provide coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section.

77	SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
78	section 47Z the following section:-
79	Section 47AA. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context
80	clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-
81	"Actuary", a person who is a member of American Academy of Actuaries and meets
82	Academy's professional qualification standards for rendering an actuarial opinion related to
83	health insurance rate making,
84	"Applied behavior analysis", the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental
85	modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant
86	improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and
87	functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.
88	"Autism services provider", a person, entity or group that provides treatment of autism
89	spectrum disorders.
90	"Autism spectrum disorders", any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders as defined
91	by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,
92	including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not
93	Otherwise Specified.
94	"Board certified behavior analyst", a behavior analyst credentialed by the Behavior

Analyst Certification Board as a board certified behavior analyst.

"Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders", medically necessary assessments, evaluations including neuropsychological evaluations, genetic testing or other tests to diagnose whether an individual has 1 of the autism spectrum disorders.

"Habilitative or rehabilitative care", professional, counseling and guidance services and treatment programs, including but not limited to, applied behavior analysis supervised by a board certified behavior analyst, that are necessary to develop, maintain and restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.

"Pharmacy care", medications prescribed by a licensed physician and health-related services deemed medically necessary to determine the need or effectiveness of the medications, to the same extent that pharmacy care is provided by the policy for other medical conditions.

"Psychiatric care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist practices.

"Psychological care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychologist practices.

"Therapeutic care", services provided by licensed or certified speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists or social workers.

"Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders", includes the following care prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with 1 of the autism spectrum disorders by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary: habilitative or rehabilitative care; pharmacy care; psychiatric care; psychological care; and therapeutic care.

(b) An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 108 that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and any group blanket or general policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth, shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis to residents of the commonwealth and to all policyholders having a principal place of employment in the commonwealth for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in individuals.

- (c) Any such policy shall be in compliance with subsection (b) if the policy does not contain any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders which is less than any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation imposed on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of physical conditions.
- (d) This section shall not limit benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under a health insurance policy.
- (e) Coverage under this section shall not be subject to any limits on the number of visits an individual may make to an autism services provider.
- (f) This section shall not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program or an individualized service plan. Services related to autism spectrum disorder provided by school personnel pursuant to an individualized education program are not subject to reimbursement under this section.
- (g) An insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall be exempt from providing coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section and not

covered by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization as of December 31, 2010,

if:

- (1) an actuary, affiliated with the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization certifies in writing to the commissioner of insurance that:
- (i) based on an analysis to be completed by each insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization for the most recent experience period of at least 1 year's duration, the costs associated with coverage of habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section, and not covered as of December 31, 2010, exceeded 1 per cent of the premiums charged over the experience period by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization;
- (ii) those costs solely would lead to an increase in average premiums charged of more than 1 per cent for all insurance policies, subscription contracts or health care plans commencing on inception or the next renewal date, based on the premium rating methodology and practices the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization employs; and
 - (iii) the commissioner of insurance approves the certification of the actuary.
- (2) Notwithstanding the exemption allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization may elect to continue to provide coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section.
- SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 8CC the following section:-
- Section 8DD. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

"Actuary", a person who is a member of American Academy of Actuaries and meets

Academy's professional qualification standards for rendering an actuarial opinion related to

health insurance rate making,

"Applied behavior analysis", the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.

"Autism services provider", a person, entity or group that provides treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

"Autism spectrum disorders", any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders as defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not Otherwise Specified.

"Board certified behavior analyst", a behavior analyst credentialed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as a board certified behavior analyst.

"Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders", medically necessary assessments, evaluations including neuropsychological evaluations, genetic testing or other tests to diagnose whether an individual has 1 of the autism spectrum disorders.

"Habilitative or rehabilitative care", professional, counseling and guidance services and treatment programs, including but not limited to, applied behavior analysis supervised by a board

certified behavior analyst, that are necessary to develop, maintain and restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.

"Pharmacy care", medications prescribed by a licensed physician and health-related services deemed medically necessary to determine the need or effectiveness of the medications, to the same extent that pharmacy care is provided by the contract for other medical conditions.

"Psychiatric care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist practices.

"Psychological care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychologist practices.

"Therapeutic care", services provided by licensed or certified speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists or social workers.

"Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders", includes the following care prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with 1 of the autism spectrum disorders by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary: habilitative or rehabilitative care; pharmacy care; psychiatric care; psychological care; and therapeutic care.

(b) A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group hospital service plan which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis to residents of the commonwealth and to all policyholders having a principal place of employment in the commonwealth for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in individuals.

(c) Any such contract shall be in compliance with subsection (b) if the contract does not contain any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders which is less than any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation imposed on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of physical conditions.

- (d) This section shall not limit benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under a health insurance policy.
- (e) Coverage under this section shall not be subject to any limits on the number of visits an individual may make to an autism services provider.
- (f) This section shall not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program or an individualized service plan. Services related to autism spectrum disorder provided by school personnel pursuant to an individualized education program are not subject to reimbursement under this section.
- (g) An insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall be exempt from providing coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section and not covered by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization as of December 31, 2010, if:
- (1) an actuary, affiliated with the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization certifies in writing to the commissioner of insurance that:
- (i) based on an analysis to be completed by each insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization for the most recent experience period of at least 1 year's duration, the

costs associated with coverage of habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section, and not covered as of December 31, 2010, exceeded 1 per cent of the premiums charged over the experience period by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization;

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- (ii) those costs solely would lead to an increase in average premiums charged of more than 1 per cent for all insurance policies, subscription contracts or health care plans commencing on inception or the next renewal date, based on the premium rating methodology and practices the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization employs; and
 - (iii) the commissioner of insurance approves the certification of the actuary.
- (2) Notwithstanding the exemption allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization may elect to continue to provide coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section.
- SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4CC the following section:-
- Section 4DD. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-
- "Actuary", a person who is a member of American Academy of Actuaries and meets Academy's professional qualification standards for rendering an actuarial opinion related to health insurance rate making,
- "Applied behavior analysis", the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant

improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.

"Autism services provider", a person, entity or group that provides treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

"Autism spectrum disorders", any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders as defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not Otherwise Specified.

"Board certified behavior analyst", a behavior analyst credentialed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as a board certified behavior analyst.

"Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders", medically necessary assessments, evaluations including neuropsychological evaluations, genetic testing or other tests to diagnose whether an individual has 1 of the autism spectrum disorders.

"Habilitative or rehabilitative care", professional, counseling and guidance services and treatment programs, including but not limited to, applied behavior analysis supervised by a board certified behavior analyst, that are necessary to develop, maintain and restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.

"Pharmacy care", medications prescribed by a licensed physician and health-related services deemed medically necessary to determine the need or effectiveness of the medications, to the same extent that pharmacy care is provided by the certificate for other medical conditions.

"Psychiatric care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist practices.

"Psychological care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychologist practices.

"Therapeutic care", services provided by licensed or certified speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists or social workers.

"Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders", includes the following care prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with 1 of the autism spectrum disorders by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary: habilitative or rehabilitative care; pharmacy care; psychiatric care; psychological care; and therapeutic care.

- (b) A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis to residents of the commonwealth and to all policyholders having a principal place of employment in the commonwealth for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in individuals.
- (c) Any such certificate shall be in compliance with subsection (b) if the certificate does not contain any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders which is less than any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation imposed on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of physical conditions.

- 283 (d) This section shall not limit benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under 284 a health insurance policy.
 - (e) Coverage under this section shall not be subject to any limits on the number of visits an individual may make to an autism services provider.

- (f) This section shall not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program or an individualized service plan. Services related to autism spectrum disorder provided by school personnel pursuant to an individualized education program are not subject to reimbursement under this section.
- (g) An insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall be exempt from providing coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section and not covered by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization as of December 31, 2010, if:
- (1) an actuary, affiliated with the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization certifies in writing to the commissioner of insurance that:
- (i) based on an analysis to be completed by each insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization for the most recent experience period of at least 1 year's duration, the costs associated with coverage of habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section, and not covered as of December 31, 2010, exceeded 1 per cent of the premiums charged over the experience period by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization;
- (ii) those costs solely would lead to an increase in average premiums charged of more than 1 per cent for all insurance policies, subscription contracts or health care plans commencing

304 on inception or the next renewal date, based on the premium rating methodology and practices 305 the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization employs; and 306 (iii) the commissioner of insurance approves the certification of the actuary. 307 (2) Notwithstanding the exemption allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an 308 insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization may elect to continue to provide 309 coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section. 310 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after 311 section 4U the following section:-312 Section 4V. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context 313 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-314 "Actuary", a person who is a member of American Academy of Actuaries and meets 315 Academy's professional qualification standards for rendering an actuarial opinion related to 316 health insurance rate making, "Applied behavior analysis", the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental 317 318 modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant 319 improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement and 320 functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior. 321 "Autism services provider", a person, entity or group that provides treatment of autism 322 spectrum disorders. 323 "Autism spectrum disorders", any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders as defined

by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,

323	including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not
326	Otherwise Specified.
327	"Board certified behavior analyst", a behavior analyst credentialed by the Behavior
328	Analyst Certification Board as a board certified behavior analyst.
329	"Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders", medically necessary assessments, evaluations
330	including neuropsychological evaluations, genetic testing or other tests to diagnose whether an
331	individual has 1 of the autism spectrum disorders.
332	"Habilitative or rehabilitative care", professional, counseling and guidance services and
333	treatment programs, including but not limited to, applied behavior analysis supervised by a board
334	certified behavior analyst, that are necessary to develop, maintain and restore, to the maximum
335	extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.
336	"Pharmacy care", medications prescribed by a licensed physician and health-related
337	services deemed medically necessary to determine the need or effectiveness of the medications,
338	to the same extent that pharmacy care is provided by the contract for other medical conditions.
339	"Psychiatric care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist licensed in
340	the state in which the psychiatrist practices.
341	"Psychological care", direct or consultative services provided by a psychologist licensed
342	in the state in which the psychologist practices.
343	"Therapeutic care", services provided by licensed or certified speech therapists,
344	occupational therapists, physical therapists or social workers.

"Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders", includes the following care prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with 1 of the autism spectrum disorders by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary: habilitative or rehabilitative care; pharmacy care; psychiatric care; psychological care; and therapeutic care.

- (b) A health maintenance contract issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis to residents of the commonwealth and to all policyholders having a principal place of employment in the commonwealth for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in individuals.
- (c) A health maintenance contract shall be in compliance with subsection (b) if the contract does not contain any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders which is less than any annual or lifetime dollar or unit of service limitation imposed on coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of physical conditions.
- (d) This section shall not limit benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under a health insurance policy.
- (e) Coverage under this section shall not be subject to any limits on the number of visits an individual may make to an autism services provider.
- (f) This section shall not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program or an individualized service plan. Services related to autism spectrum disorder provided by school personnel pursuant to an individualized education program are not subject to reimbursement under this section.

(g) An insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall be exempt from providing coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section and not covered by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization as of December 31, 2010, if:

- (1) an actuary, affiliated with the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization certifies in writing to the commissioner of insurance that:
- (i) based on an analysis to be completed not more than once annually by each insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization for the most recent experience period of at least 1 year's duration, the costs associated with coverage of habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section, and not covered as of December 31, 2010, exceeded 1 per cent of the premiums charged over the experience period by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization;
- (ii) those costs solely would lead to an increase in average premiums charged of more than 1 per cent for all insurance policies, subscription contracts or health care plans commencing on inception or the next renewal date, based on the premium rating methodology and practices the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization employs; and
 - (iii) the commissioner of insurance approves the certification of the actuary.
- (2) Notwithstanding the exemption allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, an insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization may elect to continue to provide coverage for habilitative or rehabilitative care required under this section.

SECTION 6. All policies, contracts and certificates of health insurance subject to the provisions of section 25 of chapter 32A, section 47AA of chapter 175, section 8DD of chapter 176A, section 4CC of chapter 176B, and section 4V of chapter 176G of the General Laws which are delivered, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2011 shall conform with the provisions of this act. Form filings implementing this act shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of insurance.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2011.