

March 12, 2009

**H 589. INSURANCE/COVER HEARING AIDS (=S 375).** Filed 3/12/09. *TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS AND THE STATE HEALTH PLAN TO COVER HEARING AIDS AND REPLACEMENT HEARING AIDS.* Identical to S 375, filed 3/3/09.

**Intro. by England, M. Alexander, Wiley, Glazier.** GS 58, 135

May 26, 2009

**H 589. INSURANCE/COVER HEARING AIDS.** Filed 3/12/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends proposed GS 58-3-280 to clarify that every health plan must provide coverage up to \$2,500 (was, provide full cost, up to \$2,500) for one hearing aid per ear every 36 months and clarifies that the coverage is subject to subsection (b) of the statute. Requires the coverage to include all medically necessary hearing aids and services ordered by a licensed audiologist. Also clarifies that covered supplies includes ear molds. Adds a new subsection (c) to provide that an insurer may use utilization review criteria to determine medical necessity, if it is done in compliance with current requirements under GS 58-50-61 (Utilization review, meaning a set of formal techniques designed to monitor the use of or evaluate the clinical necessity, appropriateness, efficacy or efficiency of health care services, procedures, providers, or facilities) and Part 4 of Article 50 of GS Chapter 58 (Health Benefit Plan External Review).

Changes the effective date to March 1, 2010 (was, January 1, 2010) and applies to health benefit plans that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on and after that date.

June 3, 2009

**H 589. INSURANCE/COVER HEARING AIDS.** Filed 3/12/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition.

Amends proposed GS 58-3-280 to provide that every benefit health plan is to include coverage for medically necessary hearing aids and services that are ordered by a physician or an audiologist (was, by an audiologist) licensed in North Carolina. Amends GS 135-45.8(13) as amended to add an exemption allowing charges for hearing aids or examinations for prescribing or fitting of hearing aids as authorized under proposed GS 58-3-280 to be covered expenses.

July 22, 2009

**H 589. INSURANCE/COVER HEARING AIDS.** Filed 3/12/09. House amendment makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Renumbers the new statute, *Coverage for hearing aids*, proposed to be added to Article 3 of GS Chapter 58 as GS 58-3-285 (was, GS 58-3-280).

August 5, 2009

**H 589. INS.&ST. HLTH PLAN COVER/HEARING AIDS/AUTISM (NEW).** Filed 3/12/09. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 4th edition. Continues existing provisions and adds new GS 135-45.8 requiring the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorders, subject (except as set out below) to the same deductibles and coinsurance factors as physical illness generally. Provides that there will be no limits on the number of visits an individual may make to an autism services provider. Establishes a maximum annual benefit of \$75,000 for behavioral therapy for autism spectrum disorders and directs that this limit be adjusted annually by using the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers. Includes appropriate definitions in GS 135-45.1 and adds the following to the title: *AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE HEALTH PLAN FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM TREATMENT DISORDERS.* Amendments to GS 135-45.1 and new GS 135-45.8A are effective January 1, 2010.

August 7, 2009

**H 589. INS.&ST. HLTH PLAN COVER/HEARING AIDS/AUTISM.** Filed 3/12/09. Conference report recommends the following changes to 5th edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Amends GS 135-45.8A to subject the coverage for behavioral therapy to a maximum benefit of \$25,000 per Plan year (was, \$75,000 per year) and limits coverage under the statute to \$10

million per Plan year. Removes the requirements that the Executive Administrator (1) adjust the maximum benefit for inflation by using the Medical Care Component of the US Department of Labor Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and (2) submit the adjusted maximum benefit for publication by June of each year.

Changes the effective date for the entire act to July 1, 2010 (was, January 1, 2010, for new GS 135-45.8A and amendments to GS 135-45.1, and March 1, 2010, for the remainder of the act).

May 19, 2010

**H 589. INS. AND ST. HLTH PLAN COVER HEARING AIDS/AUTISM.** Filed 3/12/2009.

Conference report recommends the following changes to 5th edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Deletes substantive provisions providing for insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders, revises title accordingly, and makes conforming changes. Changes the effective date of the remainder of the act from March 1, 2010, to January 1, 2011, and applies to health benefit plans that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on and after that date.