



HOUSE BILL 307: Board Cert. Behavior Analyst/Autism Coverage.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Insurance	Date:	March 16, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. McGrady, Shepard, Jackson, Murphy	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 307 would amend G.S. 58-3-192 to require insurers to provide coverage for adaptive behavior treatment provided by a board-certified behavior analyst.

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, insurers must provide coverage for adaptive behavior treatment, in the amount of at least \$40,000 per year, for individuals 18 years of age or younger. In order to qualify for coverage, the treatment must be provided by a licensed psychologist or psychological associate, a licensed psychiatrist or developmental pediatrician, a licensed speech and language pathologist, a licensed occupational therapist, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed professional counselor, or a licensed marriage and family therapist. Under G.S. 90-270.2(8), the practice of psychology includes behavior analysis and therapy. North Carolina currently does not have an occupational licensing or certification board for behavior analysts.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 307 would add "board-certified behavior analyst" to the list of professionals who can provide adaptive behavior treatment and have it be covered by insurance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective July 1, 2017, and applies to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

BACKGROUND: Adaptive behavior treatment is the use of certain techniques (e.g., rewarding desired behaviors) to bring about meaningful and positive changes in the behavior of individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is frequently performed by behavior analysts. In general, behavior analysts are certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). BACB certification requires, at a minimum, a graduate degree in behavior analysis, education, or psychology, which must include completion of qualified coursework; 750-1500 hours of supervised practical experience; and successful completion of a comprehensive exam. All certificate holders must adhere to the Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts and take thirty-six hours of continuing education every three years to maintain their credentials.

As of 2015, forty-four states require some form of insurance coverage for adaptive behavior treatment. Twenty-three of those states require behavior analysts who provide adaptive behavior treatment to be fully licensed, with certification by the BACB as a prerequisite for licensure. The remaining states require behavior analysts to be certified by the BACB.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578