SENATE BILL 257:
Appropriations Act of 2017, Sec. 22.3:
Allow Adaptive Behavior Treatment Covered by a Health Benefit Plan to be Provided or Supervised by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

OVERVIEW: Sec. 22.3 of S.L. 2017-57 adds "board-certified behavior analyst" to the professionals listed in the statute who can provide or supervise adaptive behavior treatment and have it covered by insurance. This section became effective on July 1, 2017, and applies to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 58-3-192 [Coverage for autism spectrum disorder], insurers must provide coverage for adaptive behavior treatment for individuals 18 years of age or younger, in the amount of at least $40,000 per year. 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. North Carolina currently does not have an occupational licensing or certification board for behavior analysts.

BILL ANALYSIS: Sec. 22.3 of S.L. 2017-57 requires insurers to provide coverage for adaptive behavior treatment supervised or provided by a board-certified behavior analyst.

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

This bill analysis was prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff for the use of legislators in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.