

By: Representatives Massengill, Barker,
Evans (43rd), Lamar, Steverson, White, Lane,
Dixon

To: Insurance;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 542
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH
2 INSURANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD TO REVIEW AND STUDY WHETHER TO EXPAND
3 COVERAGE CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM
4 DISORDERS UNDER THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE
5 PLAN; TO REQUIRE A REPORT TO BE FILED WITH THE LEGISLATURE WITH
6 RECOMMENDATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature created the State and School
8 Employees Health Insurance Management Board to design a plan of
9 health insurance for state and school employees that provides
10 benefits and coverages that the board deems necessary; and

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the growing need to
12 identify children with autism spectrum disorders and to begin
13 early intervention services immediately after a child has been
14 diagnosed with autism, and that those services, interventions, and
15 support for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their
16 families should be provided to the extent practical in an
17 integrated, seamless, comprehensive, and competent manner; NOW,
18 THEREFORE,

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:



20 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State and School Employees Health
21 Insurance Management Board shall review and study whether to
22 expand coverage currently provided for the treatment of autism
23 spectrum disorders under the State and School Employees Health
24 Insurance Plan. The board may employ or contract for such
25 consulting or actuarial services as may be necessary to evaluate
26 expanding this coverage. In evaluating the coverage, the board
27 may also consider the services for the early intervention and
28 treatment of autism spectrum disorders offered by the public
29 school system under the provision of the Individuals with
30 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to facilitate coordination of
31 resources and minimize potential redundancy of benefits.

32 (2) On or before December 1, 2014, the board shall submit a
33 report to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives, and the Chairmen of the House and Senate
35 Insurance Committees regarding expanding coverage in the State and
36 School Employees Health Insurance Plan for the treatment of autism
37 spectrum disorders. The report shall contain the board's
38 analysis, conclusions and recommendations regarding expanding
39 coverage under the plan. The report shall also contain an
40 estimate of the financial impact on the plan due to expanding the
41 coverage.

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after its passage.

