

House Bill 140

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Newton of the 127th, Cooper of the 45th, Bennett of the 94th, and Dempsey of the 13th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, so as to provide for a
3 three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric
4 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS)
5 and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefit
6 plan; to provide for agreements; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related
7 matters; to provide for automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, is amended by adding a new Code
12 section to read as follows:

13 "45-18-22.

14 (a) Subject to available funding, the department shall conduct a three-year pilot program
15 beginning January 1, 2025, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric
16 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS)

17 and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefit
18 plan. Such diagnosis and treatment shall include, but shall not be limited to, the use of
19 intravenous immune globulin therapy when such therapy is prescribed by a physician and
20 is in keeping with the consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS
21 or PANS as published in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. Participation in
22 the pilot program shall be limited to no more than 100 individuals per year, to be selected
23 in a manner determined by the department.

24 (b) The department is authorized to enter into an agreement with a patient advocacy
25 organization in order to create outreach materials for distribution to participating state
26 health benefit plan general and subspecialist pediatric providers in this state informing such
27 providers about the pilot and how to code claims for analysis by the department. Such
28 agreement shall also provide funding for educational resources to be made available to such
29 providers exemplifying how to recognize, diagnose, and treat PANDAS and PANS.

30 (c) The department shall provide an initial report by December 31, 2025, and annually
31 thereafter, to the chairpersons of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and
32 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Such report shall include, at a
33 minimum:

34 (1) The total number of participants in the pilot program;

35 (2) The total number of claims;

36 (3) The specific treatments covered in claims;

37 (4) Total cost of claims; and

38 (5) Number of providers.

39 (d) This Code section shall stand repealed on December 31, 2028."

40 **SECTION 2.**

41 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.