

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor offered the following substitute to SB 164:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general insurance provisions, so as to prohibit certain insurers from imposing a copayment,  
3 coinsurance, or office visit deductible amount greater than such charges imposed on a  
4 physician or an osteopath to an insured for services rendered by a physical therapist, an  
5 occupational therapist, or chiropractor; to provide for a definition; to provide for related  
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
9 insurance provisions, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "33-24-59.21.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'health benefit plan' means any hospital, health,  
12 or medical expense insurance policy, hospital or medical service contract, employee  
13 welfare benefit plan, contract or agreement with a health maintenance organization,  
14 subscriber contract or agreement, preferred provider organization, accident and sickness  
15 insurance benefit plan, or other insurance contract under any other name. The term shall  
16 include any health insurance plan established under Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 and  
17 under Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49, the 'Georgia Medical Assistance Act of 1977.'

18 (b) No health benefit plan issued, delivered, or renewed in this state shall impose a  
19 different or additional copayment, coinsurance, or office visit charge to an insured when  
20 he or she obtains the services of a licensed physical therapist, a licensed occupational  
21 therapist, or a licensed chiropractor than when such insured obtains the services of a  
22 primary care physician or licensed osteopath."  
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**SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.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