

SB 628 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plan and health care service contract coverage of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). Requires coverage of up to three monthly immunomodulatory courses of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy when specified conditions are met. Permits health benefit plan to require patient be reevaluated at three-month intervals. Specifies coding to be used for billing and diagnostic purposes until American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services create and assign a specific billing and diagnostic code.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 26; Excused, 4

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The National Institute of Mental Health defines pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) as pediatric disorders that often appear in childhood from age 3 to 12. The diagnosis of PANDAS is a clinical diagnosis made by a health care professional. Symptoms may include motor or vocal tics, obsessions, compulsions, or a combination of these. PANDAS is a diagnosis given to children who experience a sudden and dramatic onset or worsening of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and/or tic disorders following a streptococcal infection. Children diagnosed with PANDAS may also experience anxiety, inattention, trouble sleeping, and changes in motor skills, among other symptoms. A distinction between PANDAS and PANS is that children diagnosed with PANS have no association with an underlying streptococcal infection. PANDAS and PANS are described in the medical literature as episodic conditions, and individuals diagnosed with PANDAS or PANS are expected to experience periods of symptom reduction or remission with the disorders. In 2019, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2510 creating PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day on October 9 of each year.

Senate Bill 628 A would require health benefit plans and health care service contracts to cover specified treatments for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS).