

**Introduced by Senator Steinberg**

February 3, 2011

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An act to add Section 1374.73 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10144.51 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 166, as introduced, Steinberg. Health care coverage: autism spectrum disorders.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires that health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of severe mental illnesses, including, but not limited to, pervasive developmental disorder or autism, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions, as specified.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would develop standards for the diagnosis and treatment by health care service plans and health insurers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1374.73 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:

1 1374.73. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
2 that would develop standards for the diagnosis and treatment by  
3 health care service plans of individuals with autism spectrum  
4 disorders.

5 SEC. 2. Section 10144.51 is added to the Insurance Code, to  
6 read:

7 10144.51. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
8 that would develop standards for the diagnosis and treatment by  
9 health insurers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.