

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 360 (HB 408)

2025 Regular Session

Dickerson

New law defines "autoimmune encephalitis" or "AE", "health coverage plan", "pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome" or "PANS", and "pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections" or "PANDAS".

New law outlines legislative findings. Provides that symptoms of PANS, PANDAS, and types of AE cause disruption to the neurological functioning of children. Provides that symptoms include but are not limited to episodes of anxiety, seizures, depression, and personality changes. Further provides that symptoms worsen with episodes.

New law states that younger children are often misdiagnosed with autism and many children meet criteria for state disability services because their symptoms are not solely attributable to mental illness.

New law provides that studies have found several therapies and treatments to be effective in resolving symptoms, including but not limited to antibiotic therapy, intravenous immunoglobulin treatments, antidepressant medications, cognitive behavioral therapies, and plasma exchange.

New law provides that early treatment is important to prevent permanent brain injury and nervous system damage, cognitive decline, and mental illness that may persist into adulthood and potentially death.

New law requires health coverage plans issued in this state to provide coverage for PANS, PANDAS, and other types of AE, including but not limited to the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy. Authorizes plans to limit intravenous immunoglobulin treatments to three monthly courses, unless additional treatment is deemed medically necessary. Further authorizes application of annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as established under the health coverage plan.

New law recommends factors that plans may use in determining coverage for certain treatments.

New law applies to new policies, contracts, or plans issued on and after Jan. 1, 2026. Requires existing policies, contracts, or plans to conform with new law by Jan. 1, 2027.

New law may be cited as the "Gillian Guiffreda Act."

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 22:1028.6)