

New law changes prior law relative to mandated health insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders as follows:

- (1) Prior law provided that such mandated coverage applies only to individuals less than 17 years of age.

New law raises the age for such mandated coverage so that it applies only to individuals less than 21 years of age.

- (2) Prior law imposed an annual maximum benefit of \$36,000 and a lifetime maximum benefit of \$144,000.

New law eliminates the lifetime maximum benefit of \$144,000.

- (3) Prior law required coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for any health plan issued for delivery, delivered, renewed, or contracted for on or after Jan. 1, 2009.

- (4) Prior law provided that such mandated coverage shall not apply to any coverage plan issued to an employer with 50 or fewer employees.

New law deletes this prior law exclusion.

New law otherwise retains prior law but changes the implementation date to Jan. 1, 2014.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 22:1050(A)(1) and (D)(1); Repeals R.S. 22:1050(H)(1))