

Fact Sheet: HB09-1237

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CONCERNING THE COORDINATED SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER PART C OF THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT".

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Primavera, Casso, Green, Soper

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Shaffer B.

Passed House HHS and House Appropriations Unanimously

Early Intervention (EI) Services provide infants and toddlers, birth through two years of age, who have significant developmental delays or disabilities with needed services to help their early development and learning and to reduce long term costs to the State. The EI program uses multiple funding sources, including, but not limited to, state, federal, Medicaid, and private health insurance to cover the cost of services which must be provided at no cost to families. In 2007, the General Assembly passed SB07-004 which established methods for payment by private health insurance plans. HB09-1237 responds to concerns from the implementation of SB07-004 as follows:

- Clarifies that the mandatory coverage for early intervention services, includes contracts for health insurance and renewed plans.
- Provides that, should the General Assembly increase the base rate for state-funded early intervention services by more than the consumer price index, the annual amount of coverage provided by private plans would also increase by an equal amount.
- Clarifies that the coverage limit does not apply for rehabilitation or therapeutic services that are necessary after surgery.
- Directs that a child's private plan to pay for early intervention services before accessing state or federal funds.
- Directs that insurers shall not terminate coverage, refuse to deliver services, or fail to renew coverage as a result of a child accessing benefits for early intervention services.
- Streamlines administration by requiring all private plans to make payment to a state administered trust fund.
- Sets deadlines for a private plan to make payment after notification that an eligible child needs services.
- Extends the time allowed for submission and payment of outstanding bills after a child is no longer eligible for services.

For information: contact Betty Lehman, Autism Society of Colorado,
betty@autismcolorado.org, cell: 303.898.7656

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