

**HOUSE BILL NO. 292**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE

Introduced: 2/4/26

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to insurance coverage for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric**  
2 **disorders; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 21.42.450. Coverage for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric**  
6 **disorders.** (a) A health care insurer that offers, issues for delivery, delivers, or renews  
7 in this state a health care insurance plan shall provide coverage for the prophylaxis,  
8 diagnosis, and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders  
9 associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric  
10 syndrome. Coverage must include treatment using antimicrobials, medication,  
11 behavioral therapies to manage neuropsychiatric symptoms, immunomodulating  
12 medicines, plasma exchange, and intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

13 (b) An insurer may not

14 (1) deny or delay the coverage required under this section because the

1 enrollee previously received treatment, including the same or similar treatment, for the  
2 conditions listed in this section or because the enrollee was diagnosed with or received  
3 treatment for the condition under a different diagnostic name, including autoimmune  
4 encephalopathy;

5 (2) limit coverage for immunomodulating therapy for the treatment of  
6 pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal  
7 infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome in a manner that is  
8 inconsistent with the treatment guidelines developed by a consortium convened for the  
9 purposes of researching, identifying, and publishing best practice standards for  
10 diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated  
11 with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome that  
12 are accessible for medical professionals and are based on evidence of positive patient  
13 outcomes;

14 (3) require a trial of therapies that treat only neuropsychiatric  
15 symptoms before authorizing coverage of immunomodulating therapies for the  
16 treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with  
17 streptococcal infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome;

18 (4) deny coverage for out-of-state treatment if the service is not  
19 available in the state; or

20 (5) deny coverage based on age.

21 (c) Nothing in this section prevents an insurer from requesting treatment notes,  
22 the anticipated duration of treatment, or expected outcomes, or from undertaking usual  
23 and customary procedures, including prior authorization, to determine the  
24 appropriateness of and medical necessity for treatment of pediatric autoimmune  
25 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric  
26 acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, if the appropriate and medical necessity  
27 determinations are made in the same manner as those determinations are made for the  
28 treatment of any other illness, condition, or disorder covered by the health benefit  
29 plan.

30 (d) Coverage under this section may not be more restrictive than or separate  
31 from coverage provided for any other illness, condition, or disorder for purposes of

1 determining deductibles, benefit year or lifetime durational limits, benefit year or  
2 lifetime dollar limits, lifetime episodes or treatment limits, copayment and coinsurance  
3 factors, and benefit year maximum for deductibles and copayments and coinsurance  
4 factors.

5 (e) In this section,

6 (1) "pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome" means a  
7 clinically defined disorder characterized by the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive  
8 symptoms or eating restrictions, associated with acute behavioral deterioration in at  
9 least two designated domains with comorbid symptoms that may include anxiety,  
10 sensory amplification or motor abnormalities, behavioral regression, deterioration in  
11 school performance, mood disorder, urinary symptoms, or sleep disturbances;

12 (2) "pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with  
13 streptococcal infection" means a subset of pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric  
14 syndrome that is usually accompanied by similar comorbid symptoms found in  
15 pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and has the following five distinct  
16 criteria for diagnosis:

17 (A) abrupt obsessive-compulsive symptoms or dramatic and  
18 disabling tics;

19 (B) a relapsing-remitting, episodic symptom course;

20 (C) young age at onset;

21 (D) presence of neurological abnormalities; and

22 (E) temporal association between symptom onset and group A  
23 streptococcal infection.

24 \* **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.