

HOUSE BILL 820

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By: **Delegate Carr**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders –**
3 **Modification of Coverage Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of removing a requirement that rituximab be approved by the federal
5 Food and Drug Administration to be subject to a requirement on certain insurers,
6 nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide
7 coverage for the treatment of certain pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric
8 disorders; and generally relating to health insurance coverage for pediatric
9 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Insurance
12 Section 15–855
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Insurance**

18 15–855.

19 (a) This section applies to:

20 (1) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide hospital,
21 medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups on an expense–incurred basis under
22 health insurance policies or contracts that are issued or delivered in the State; and

23 (2) health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or
24 surgical benefits to individuals or groups under contracts that are issued or delivered in

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the State.

2 (b) [(1) Except as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an] AN entity
3 subject to this section shall provide coverage for medically necessary diagnosis, evaluation,
4 and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with
5 streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, including the
6 use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

7 [(2) This subsection does not require coverage for rituximab unless the
8 federal Food and Drug Administration approves the use of rituximab for the treatment of
9 pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections
10 and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.]

11 (c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the coverage required under
12 this section may be subject to the annual deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance
13 requirements imposed by an entity subject to this section for similar coverages under the
14 same health insurance policy or contract.

15 (2) The annual deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance requirements
16 imposed under paragraph (1) of this subsection for the coverage required under this section
17 may not be greater than the annual deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance requirements
18 imposed by the entity for similar coverages.

19 (d) (1) Except as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, pediatric
20 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and
21 pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome shall be coded as autoimmune
22 encephalitis for billing and diagnosis purposes.

23 (2) If the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and
24 Medicaid Services create and assign a specific code for pediatric autoimmune
25 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections or pediatric acute onset
26 neuropsychiatric syndrome for billing and diagnosis purposes, pediatric autoimmune
27 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute
28 onset neuropsychiatric syndrome may be coded as:

29 (i) autoimmune encephalitis;

30 (ii) pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated
31 with streptococcal infections; or

32 (iii) pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all
34 policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or
35 after January 1, 2023.

36 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

1 January 1, 2023.