


MEMORANDUM

DATE	October 24, 2016
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Cherise Burns Central Services Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #14(a)(3)(C) – SB 1034 (Mitchell) Health care coverage: Autism

Background:

This bill would have modified requirements to be a qualified autism service professional to include providing behavioral health treatment, which may include clinical management and case supervision under the direction and supervision of a qualified autism service provider. The bill would have required that, unless a treatment plan is modified by a qualified autism service provider, utilization review would be conducted no more than once every 6 months. The bill would have also provided that coverage for behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism would be dependent on medical necessity, subject to utilization review, and required to be in compliance with federal mental health parity requirements. The bill would have extended the operation of these provisions to January 1, 2022.

At the July Board Meeting, the Board adopted an "Oppose" position on SB 1034. On July 28, 2016, the Board sent an "Oppose" letter to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, as well as the author's office. The oppose letter expressed the Board's concern with the lack of consumer protection as providers of these services do not have to be licensed.

Status: Dead, this bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on the Suspense File.

Action Requested:

This is for informational purposes only.