



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 4/17/2010

LRB Number	09-4612/1	Introduction Number	SB-667	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Licensure and regulation of behavior analysts, insurance coverage of the services of behavior analysts for autism treatment, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill provides for licensure of Behavior Analysts certified by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. The bill requires insurance plans subject to the autism insurance mandate to provide reimbursement to the Behavior Analyst or a paraprofessional working under the supervision of the Behavior Analyst.

It is estimated that 40 children in the Children's Long-Term Support autism waiver receive therapy services from a Behavior Analyst. The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance estimates approximately 28% of children have insurance coverage that is subject to the autism insurance mandate. Applied to the Children's Long-Term Support autism waiver, it is estimated 11 children currently participating in the waivers would be affected by this bill. The cost of autism therapy services is approximately \$41,000 per year. It is assumed an average deductible of \$1,200 would be paid with waiver funds, but the remainder of costs would be covered by private insurance. The bill would reduce costs for serving these children by an estimated \$438,000 AF (\$175,100 GPR) per year. Savings were calculated using a standard federal matching rate; GPR savings would be less through January 1, 2011 due to the enhanced matching rate provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Currently there is a waitlist of children for autism services. The 2009-11 biennial budget sought to substantially reduce the autism waitlist through enactment of the autism insurance mandate; therefore, any savings achieved in this bill would be used to serve children currently on the autism waitlist in furtherance of the biennial budget.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications