

certain determinations are considered adverse decisions; ~~prohibiting certain insurance carriers from requiring certain children to seek or receive habilitative services in a certain manner~~; defining a certain term; altering a certain definition; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to habilitative services for children.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Insurance

Section 15-835

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

**Article - Insurance**

15-835.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (I) "CONGENITAL OR GENETIC BIRTH DEFECT" MEANS A DEFECT EXISTING AT OR FROM BIRTH, INCLUDING A HEREDITARY DEFECT.

(II) "CONGENITAL OR GENETIC BIRTH DEFECT" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

1. AUTISM OR AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND
2. CEREBRAL PALSY; OR
3. ~~A CONDITION OR DISEASE RELATED TO PREMATURE~~

~~BIRTH.~~

[(2)] (3) "Habilitative services" means services, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy, for the treatment of a child with A congenital [and] OR genetic birth [defects] DEFECT to enhance the child's ability to function.

[(3)] (4) "Managed care system" means a method that an insurer, a nonprofit health service plan, or a health maintenance organization uses to review and preauthorize a treatment plan that a health care practitioner develops for a covered person using a variety of cost containment methods to control utilization, quality, and claims.

(b) This section applies to:

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