



Date: 2/12/25 | Policy Analyst: Seth Anderson | Prepared For: Sen. Kwan

SB 214, 1st Substitute: Health Insurance Coverage Amendments

SB 214, 1st Substitute, Health Insurance Coverage Amendments, addresses health insurance coverage and the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The bill modifies the types of licensed practitioners that certain health plans recognize as able to diagnose autism spectrum disorder for insurance coverage purposes.

Key Points for SB 214, 1st Substitute:

- The bill defines advanced practice registered nurses, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, clinical mental health counselors, psychologists, and physicians (MDs and DOs) as practitioners able to diagnose autism spectrum disorder for insurance purposes
- The bill requires diagnosing practitioners to have education, training, and experience in autism spectrum disorder evaluation methods
- The bill clarifies that the contents of the section do not change the scope of practice for any licensed individual

Background

HB 214, 1st Substitute, impacts the portions of Utah's health insurance market that the state has authority to regulate, which is primarily the commercial health insurance market. Utah's Public Employee Health Program (PEHP) would also be subject to the requirements of the bill. Below, Figure 1 shows the size of these portions of the health insurance market in Utah for 2022. For that year, commercial insurance accounted for 22.7% of the health insurance market and PEHP accounted for 4.7%.

UCA 31A-22-642, *Insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder*, mandates that commercial health insurance plans offered in the individual or the large group market provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder to children who are between two and 10 years old.

Policy Analysis

Currently, under UCA 31A-22-642, the following individuals are permitted to diagnose autism spectrum disorder:

- **Physicians** (with board certification in neurology, psychiatry, or pediatrics with experience diagnosing autism spectrum disorder); and
- **Psychologists** (with experience diagnosing autism spectrum disorder)

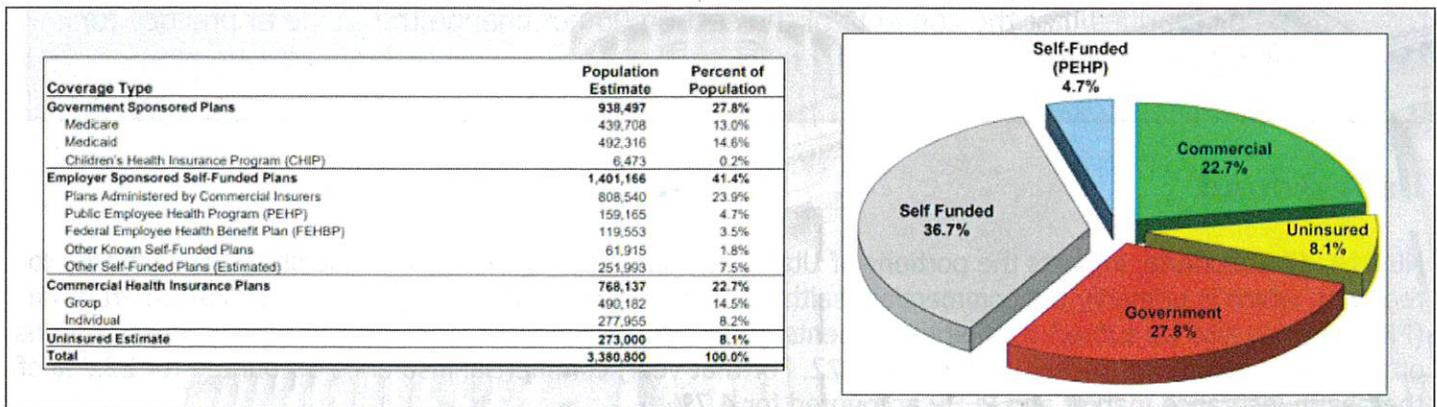
SB 214, 1st Substitute, Health Insurance Coverage Amendments, modifies the list of individuals permitted to diagnose autism spectrum disorder to include:

- **Advanced practice registered nurses** (specializing in psychiatric mental health nursing);
- **Clinical social workers;**
- **Marriage and family therapists;**
- **Clinical mental health counselors;**
- **Psychologists;** and
- **Physicians (MDs and DOs)**

In addition to being one of the types of licensed practitioners listed above, the bill also requires that the diagnosis be performed by an individual who by education, training, and experience is qualified to administer diagnostic assessments, evaluations, or tests for an autism spectrum disorder.

Finally, the bill prohibits the provisions of the section from being construed as limiting, modifying, or expanding scope of practice for any individual licensed under Title 58, Occupations and Professions.

Figure 1: Health Insurance Market Report – Estimate of Utah Health Insurance Coverage for 2022



Source: 2023 Health Insurance Market Report. Utah Insurance Department