

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 868

Short Title: State Employee TMJ Appliance Benefits.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Wainwright.

Referred to: Public Employees, if favorable, Insurance.

April 7, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO COVER TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DYSFUNCTION
2 APPLIANCE THERAPY REGARDLESS OF CAUSE UNDER THE TEACHERS'
3 AND STATE EMPLOYEES' COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR MEDICAL PLAN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 135-40.6(8)f. reads as rewritten:

6 "f. Dental Services: Oral surgery, including extraction of teeth,
7 necessitated because of medical treatment. Dental surgery and
8 appliances for mouth, jaw, and tooth restoration necessitated
9 because of external violent and accidental means, such as the
10 impact of moving body, vehicle collision, or fall occurring while
11 an individual is covered under G.S. 135-40.3. No benefits are
12 provided in connection with injury incurred in the act of
13 chewing, nor for damage or breakage of an appliance such as
14 bridge or denture being cleaned or otherwise not in normal
15 mouth usage at the time of accident, nor for appliances for
16 orthodontic treatment when a class of malocclusion, other than
17 orthognathic, or cross bite has been diagnosed. Benefits for
18 temporomandibular joint (TMJ) ~~disfunction~~ dysfunction appliance
19 therapy are ~~limited to cases where the TMJ disfunction has been~~

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1 ~~diagnosed as solely resulting from accidental means as certified by the~~
2 covered regardless of whether or not the cause was accidental
3 when the therapy has been certified as medically necessary by
4 the attending practitioner and approved by the Claims Processor.

5 Benefits shall include extractions, fillings, crowns, bridges, or
6 other necessary therapeutic and restorative techniques and
7 appliances to reasonably restore condition and function to that
8 existing immediately prior to the accident. Injury or breakage of
9 existing appliances such as bridges and dentures is limited to
10 repair of such appliances unless certified as damaged beyond
11 repair."

12 Section 2. This act becomes effective January 1, 1996.