

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 525—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 23, 2007

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to autism.
(BDR 40-1374)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included
in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; requiring the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a program of public education relating to autism; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 **Sections 2-4** of this bill encourage screening for the detection of autism in
2 children and require the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human
3 Services to develop and carry out a public awareness campaign relating to autism.
4 **Section 7** of this bill makes an appropriation for use by an organization chosen
5 by the Department of Health and Human Services which provides services without
6 charge to families of children with autism.
7 **Section 8** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Health and
8 Human Services to provide a monthly allocation for use by certain families of children
9 with autism to pay costs associated with certain programs that provide treatment for
10 children with autism.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** Chapter 442 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.
3 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act, "autism"*
4 *means a spectrum disorder which significantly affects the verbal*
5 *and nonverbal communication and social skills of a person and*



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1 *which is often characterized by repetitive activities and stereotyped*
2 *movements, resistance to changes in environment or daily routine*
3 *and response to sensory experiences in an unusual manner. The*
4 *term includes, without limitation, a group of neurodevelopmental*
5 *disorders such as autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome, atypical*
6 *autism, pervasive developmental disorder and other*
7 *neurodevelopmental disorders that share the characteristics*
8 *described in this section.*

9 **Sec. 3.** *The Health Division shall encourage providers of*
10 *health care or other services who are providing services to a child*
11 *to:*

12 *1. Recommend that the parent or legal guardian of the child,*
13 *on or before the child reaches 18 months of age, if practicable,*
14 *complete the checklist for the detection of autism in toddlers; and*

15 *2. Perform a screening of the child, on or before the child*
16 *reaches 18 months of age, if practicable, for the detection of*
17 *autism.*

18 **Sec. 4.** *1. The Health Division shall develop and carry out*
19 *a program of public education and awareness relating to autism.*
20 *The program must:*

21 *(a) Include a description of autism and the spectrums of*
22 *autism;*

23 *(b) Include information for parents and legal guardians of*
24 *children concerning the importance of screening children for the*
25 *detection of autism on or before the age of 18 months;*

26 *(c) Encourage providers of health care or other services who*
27 *are providing services to children to carry out section 3 of this act;*

28 *(d) Include the checklist for the detection of autism in toddlers*
29 *and any other information which may assist parents and legal*
30 *guardians in the detection of autism in children;*

31 *(e) Provide access to and information concerning continuing*
32 *education credits relating to autism for providers of health care*
33 *and other services who wish to obtain such credit from the*
34 *appropriate licensing boards;*

35 *(f) Identify available resources, services and programs for*
36 *persons with autism and parents of children with autism,*
37 *including, without limitation, contact information for those*
38 *resources, services and programs; and*

39 *(g) Other information relating to autism as determined*
40 *necessary by the Health Division.*

41 *2. The Health Division shall ensure that the information*
42 *required by subsection 1:*

43 *(a) Is presented in written materials prepared by the Health*
44 *Division, including, without limitation, brochures that use terms*
45 *which are easily understandable;*



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(b) Is presented on an Internet website maintained by the Health Division, including, without limitation, direct access via the website to the checklist for the detection of autism in toddlers; and

(c) Is made available to child care facilities, public schools, licensed hospitals in this State that provide services for maternity care and the care of newborn children, licensed obstetric centers, providers of health care or other services who are providing services to children and is otherwise made available to the general public.

Sec. 5. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 6. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 7. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, the sum of \$1,200,000 to assist an organization chosen by the Department that provides services without charge to families of children with autism in accordance with this section. Such an organization must use diagnostic practices based on scientific evidence and use a multidisciplinary team to conduct evaluations.

2. The Department shall distribute the money appropriated by subsection 1 to the organization, if the organization submits proof satisfactory to the Department that the organization has obtained equal matching money, other than money from this State. The matching money may include, without limitation, money from local governmental agencies, community organizations, the private sector and the Federal Government.

3. The Department shall ensure that the money appropriated to the organization pursuant to subsection 1 is used to provide services to families of children with autism in northern Nevada and southern Nevada.

4. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

Sec. 8. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services to assist parents and legal guardians in paying the costs for the treatment of children with autism:



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1 For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....\$2,000,000
2 For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.....\$3,200,000

3 2. The parent or legal guardian of a child with autism may
4 apply to the Department of Health and Human Services, through the
5 Office of Disability Services, for a grant of money appropriated by
6 subsection 1 to assist in paying the cost for the child to participate in
7 a program for the treatment of autism. The application must be on a
8 form prescribed by the Department. The Department shall provide
9 monthly allocations to the parent or legal guardian of a child with
10 autism whose application is approved. The money must be used to
11 assist in paying the cost of a program of treatment which has proven
12 effective through evidence and research in assisting children with
13 autism. If a sufficient amount of money is not available to pay the
14 total amount requested in each approved application, the
15 Department shall allocate the money equitably among parents and
16 legal guardians whose applications are approved.

17 3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1
18 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be
19 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal
20 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
21 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
22 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
23 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
24 September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively, by
25 either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity
26 to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred,
27 and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before
28 September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively.

29 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

