

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 316—ASSEMBLYMEN WOODBURY, OHRENSCHALL, CARRILLO, SHERWOOD, CARLTON; BOBZIEN, CONKLIN, DALY, DIAZ, ELLISON, FLORES, GRADY, HAMBRICK, HAMMOND, HANSEN, HARDY, HORNE, KIRKPATRICK, LIVERMORE, MASTROLUCA, MCARTHUR, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, PIERCE, SMITH AND STEWART

MARCH 18, 2011

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS LESLIE, KIECKHEFER, HARDY, MANENDO, SCHNEIDER; BREEDEN, CEGAVSKE, COPENING, GUSTAVSON, HALSETH, HORSFORD, KIHUEN, PARKS, RHOADS AND SETTELMAYER

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Establishes provisions relating to persons with autism. (BDR 38-260)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 persons with disabilities; requiring the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services to designate a standard protocol for the assessment and evaluation of persons with autism who receive services through certain public programs; requiring certain state and local governmental agencies that provide services to persons with autism to submit reports to the Division; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 **Section 1** of this bill requires the Aging and Disability Services Division of the
- 2 Department of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with the Nevada Autism
- 3 Task Force, to prescribe a statewide standard for assessing and evaluating whether
- 4 a person is a person with autism for the purposes of receiving services through
- 5 certain public programs in this State. **Section 1** also requires the Division to
- 6 designate, as part of the statewide standard, a nationally recognized protocol for



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determining whether a person is a person with autism. **Section 1** further requires the Division to collect certain information relating to persons with autism and to document the services provided to and the progress of those persons.

Sections 6, 8 and 13 of this bill require school districts and charter schools, the Health Division of the Department and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department to use the statewide standard prescribed by the Aging and Disability Services Division pursuant to **section 1** to determine whether a person is a person with autism. **Sections 3 and 8** of this bill require certain evaluations to monitor the progress of persons with autism receiving services through school districts and charter schools and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

Sections 4, 9, 12 and 14 of this bill require school districts and charter schools, the Health Division, the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to submit to the Aging and Disability Services Division information relating to persons with autism.

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

Section 1. Chapter 427A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Division, in cooperation with the Nevada Autism Task Force created by section 40 of chapter 348, Statutes of Nevada 2007, shall prescribe by regulation a statewide standard for assessing and evaluating persons with autism who receive services through the State or a local government or an agency thereof. The regulations must designate a nationally recognized protocol for determining whether a person is a person with autism, including, without limitation, the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule or other nationally recognized tool for assessment and diagnosis, which must be used by personnel employed by the State or a local government or an agency thereof who provide assessments, interventions and diagnoses of persons with autism and by the persons with whom the State or a local government or an agency thereof contracts to provide assessments, interventions and diagnoses of persons with autism.

2. The nationally recognized protocol designated pursuant to subsection 1 must be used upon intake of a person suspected of having autism or at any later time if a person is suspected of having autism after intake. The results of an assessment must be provided to the parent or legal guardian of the person, if applicable.

3. The Division shall prescribe the form and content of reports relating to persons with autism that must be reported to the Division pursuant to sections 4, 9, 12 and 14 of this act. Except as otherwise provided in section 4 of this act, the Division shall ensure that the information is reported in a manner which:



1 (a) Allows the Division to document the services provided to
2 and monitor the progress of each person with autism who receives
3 services from the State or a local government or an agency
4 thereof; and

5 (b) Ensures that information reported for each person who
6 receives services which identifies the person is kept confidential.

7 4. The Division shall prepare annually a summary of the
8 reports submitted pursuant to sections 4, 9, 12 and 14 of this act
9 and make the summary publicly available. The Division shall
10 ensure that information contained in the summary does not
11 identify a person who received services.

12 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
13 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 3 and 4 of this act.

14 **Sec. 3.** 1. The board of trustees of a school district or the
15 governing body of a charter school shall, at intake, conduct an
16 evaluation of each pupil with autism to evaluate the cognitive,
17 communicative, social, emotional and behavioral condition and
18 adaptive skill level of the pupil and shall once every 3 years
19 conduct a follow-up evaluation to assess the progress of the pupil
20 from the time of the previous evaluation. The individualized
21 education program for the pupil must be amended, if appropriate,
22 to reflect the results of an evaluation conducted pursuant to this
23 subsection.

24 2. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing
25 body of a charter school shall ensure that each person who
26 conducts an evaluation of a pupil with autism is provided with
27 technical assistance and training to improve the accuracy and
28 efficiency in conducting such evaluations.

29 3. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing
30 body of a charter school shall use the statewide standard for
31 assessing and evaluating persons with autism prescribed by the
32 Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of
33 Health and Human Services pursuant to section 1 of this act.

34 **Sec. 4.** 1. The board of trustees of a school district or the
35 governing body of a charter school shall report annually to the
36 Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of
37 Health and Human Services information relating to pupils with
38 autism. The information must:

39 (a) Be submitted in the form required by the Aging and
40 Disability Services Division; and

41 (b) Include the total number of pupils with autism who are
42 enrolled in the school district or charter school, including all
43 pupils known to have autism but not receiving services, pupils with
44 autism receiving early intervening services and pupils with autism
45 who have an individualized education program.



2. *A pupil with autism who is designated as a pupil with more than one physical or mental impairment or disability must be included as a pupil with autism for the purposes of reporting information pursuant to this section.*

Sec. 5. NRS 388.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.440 As used in NRS 388.440 to 388.5317, inclusive ~~[1]~~, *and sections 3 and 4 of this act:*

1. "Gifted and talented pupil" means a person under the age of 18 years who demonstrates such outstanding academic skills or aptitudes that the person cannot progress effectively in a regular school program and therefore needs special instruction or special services.

2. "Pupil who receives early intervening services" means a person enrolled in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who is not a pupil with a disability but who needs additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a regular school program.

3. "Pupil with a disability" means a person under the age of 22 years who deviates either educationally, physically, socially or emotionally so markedly from normal patterns that the person cannot progress effectively in a regular school program and therefore needs special instruction or special services.

Sec. 6. NRS 388.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.470 1. Before any child is placed in a special program for pupils with disabilities or gifted and talented pupils:

(a) A consultation must be held with the child's parents or guardian.

(b) An examination must be conducted for the purpose of finding the extent to which the child deviates from normal growth and development patterns.

2. The examination *conducted pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1* must be conducted in accordance with standards prescribed by the State Board.

~~[2]~~ *The evaluations conducted pursuant to section 3 of this act of pupils who have autism must be conducted in accordance with the statewide standard for assessing and evaluating persons with autism prescribed by the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 1 of this act.*

3. A psychiatrist may be consulted in any specific case when the board of trustees of a school district deems it necessary.

~~[3]~~ 4. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school shall not place a child or authorize the placement of a child in a program for pupils with disabilities solely because the child is a disciplinary problem in school.



~~[4.]~~ 5. Pursuant to the provisions of NRS 392C.010, a child with a disability who transfers to a school in this State from a school inside or outside this State because of the military transfer of the parent or legal guardian of the child must initially be provided services that are comparable to the services the child received at his or her previous school under his or her current individualized education program until the placement of the child is determined pursuant to this section.

Sec. 7. Chapter 433 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 8 and 9 of this act.

Sec. 8. 1. *For a client who may have autism, the Division shall use the statewide standard for assessing and evaluating persons with autism prescribed by the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department pursuant to section 1 of this act to determine whether the client is a person with autism. The Division shall ensure that the treatment, training and other services provided to a client with autism are based upon the results of the evaluation conducted pursuant to this subsection.*

2. *The Division shall conduct an evaluation upon intake of a client with autism to evaluate the cognitive, communicative, social and emotional condition and adaptive skill level of the client and shall once every 3 years conduct a follow-up evaluation to assess the progress of the client from the time of the previous evaluation. The treatment of the client must be adjusted, if appropriate, to reflect the results of an evaluation conducted pursuant to this subsection.*

Sec. 9. 1. *The Division shall report annually to the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department information relating to clients with autism. The information must:*

(a) *Be submitted in the form required by the Aging and Disability Services Division;*

(b) *Include the information required by the Aging and Disability Services Division pursuant to section 1 of this act;*

(c) *Include the total number of clients with autism who are receiving treatment, training or other services from the Division; and*

(d) *Include information concerning the progress of clients with autism, based upon the evaluation conducted pursuant to section 8 of this act.*

2. *A client with autism who is designated as a client with more than one physical or mental impairment or disability must be included as a client with autism for the purposes of reporting information pursuant to this section.*



1 **Sec. 10.** Chapter 442 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 11 and 12 of this act.

3 **Sec. 11.** *As used in this section and NRS 442.750 and section*
4 *12 of this act, "early intervention services" has the meaning*
5 *ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. § 1432.*

6 **Sec. 12.** *1. The Health Division shall report annually to the*
7 *Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department*
8 *information relating to children with autism. The information*
9 *must:*

10 *(a) Be submitted in the form required by the Aging and*
11 *Disability Services Division;*

12 *(b) Include the information required by the Aging and*
13 *Disability Services Division pursuant to section 1 of this act;*

14 *(c) Include the total number of children with autism and the*
15 *total number of children who may have autism who are enrolled*
16 *in early intervention services through the Health Division; and*

17 *(d) Include the total number of hours and the type of early*
18 *intervention services received by each child with autism.*

19 *2. A child with autism who is designated as a child with more*
20 *than one physical or mental impairment or disability must be*
21 *included as a child with autism for the purposes of reporting*
22 *information pursuant to this section.*

23 *3. The Health Division shall review the information*
24 *submitted to the Aging and Disability Services Division pursuant*
25 *to this section and any other data collected by the Health Division*
26 *which demonstrates the ongoing outcomes of specific programs*
27 *and treatments for children with autism.*

28 **Sec. 13.** NRS 442.750 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 442.750 1. The Health Division shall ensure that the
30 personnel employed by the Health Division who provide early
31 intervention services to children with autism and the persons with
32 whom the Health Division contracts to provide early intervention
33 services to children with autism possess the knowledge and skills
34 necessary to serve children with autism, including, without
35 limitation:

36 (a) The screening of a child for autism at the age levels and
37 frequency recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, or
38 its successor organization;

39 (b) The procedure for evaluating children who demonstrate
40 behaviors ~~[which]~~ *that* are consistent with autism ~~[+]~~ *, which*
41 *procedure must require the use of the statewide standard for*
42 *assessing and evaluating persons with autism prescribed by the*
43 *Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department*
44 *pursuant to section 1 of this act;*



(c) The procedure for enrolling a child in early intervention services upon determining that the child has autism;

(d) Methods of providing support to children with autism and their families; and

(e) The procedure for developing an individualized family service plan in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1431 et seq., or other appropriate plan for the child.

2. The Health Division shall ensure that the personnel employed by the Health Division to provide early intervention services to children with autism and the persons with whom the Health Division contracts to provide early intervention services to children with autism:

(a) Possess the knowledge and understanding of the scientific research and support for the methods and approaches for serving children with autism and the ability to recognize the difference between an approach or method that is scientifically validated and one that is not;

(b) Possess the knowledge to accurately describe to parents and guardians the research supporting the methods and approaches, including, without limitation, the knowledge necessary to provide an explanation that a method or approach is experimental if it is not supported by scientific evidence;

(c) Immediately notify a parent or legal guardian if a child is identified as being at risk for a diagnosis of autism and refer the parent or legal guardian to the appropriate professionals for further evaluation and simultaneously refer the parent or legal guardian to any appropriate early intervention services and strategies; and

(d) Provide the parent or legal guardian with information on evidence-based treatments and interventions that may assist the child in the child's development and advancement.

3. The Health Division shall ensure that the personnel employed by the Health Division who provide early intervention screenings to children and the persons with whom the Health Division contracts to provide early intervention screenings to children perform screenings of children for autism at the age levels and frequency recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, or its successor organization.

4. *The Health Division shall ensure that:*

(a) For a child who may have autism, the personnel employed by the Health Division who provide early intervention screenings to children and the persons with whom the Health Division contracts to provide early intervention screenings to children use the nationally recognized protocol designated by the Aging and



Disability Services Division of the Department pursuant to section 1 of this act for determining whether a child has autism.

(b) An evaluation of the cognitive, communicative, social, emotional and behavioral condition and adaptive skill level of a child with autism is conducted to determine the condition of the child upon concluding early intervention services and the progress made by the child from the time of his or her initial screening.

Sec. 14. Chapter 615 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Department shall report annually to the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services information relating to persons with autism who receive vocational rehabilitation services. The information must:

(a) Be submitted in the form required by the Aging and Disability Services Division;

(b) Include the information required by the Aging and Disability Services Division pursuant to section 1 of this act;

(c) Include the total number of persons with autism who are receiving vocational rehabilitation services from the Division;

(d) Include information concerning the types of vocational rehabilitation services provided to persons with autism, the effectiveness of those services and the reasons for the ineffectiveness of those services, if applicable; and

(e) Include information concerning the technical assistance and training provided to personnel of the Division who work with persons with autism to improve the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services.

2. A person with autism who is designated as a person with more than one physical or mental impairment or disability must be included as a person with autism for the purposes of reporting information pursuant to this section.

Sec. 15. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

