
By: **Delegates Donoghue, Bromwell, Kullen, Barve, Bobo, Conroy, D. Davis, Doory, Feldman, Goldwater, Haddaway, Hurson, Impallaria, Jameson, Kelly, Kirk, Krebs, Krysiak, Love, McHale, Minnick, Moe, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Parrott, Pendergrass, Taylor, Vaughn, Walkup, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism**
 3 **Spectrum Disorders**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening
 5 Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Department of Education;
 6 providing for the purpose of the Pilot Program; requiring the Department of
 7 Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
 8 to select and establish relationships with certain providers to participate in the
 9 Pilot Program, assess and identify certain autism spectrum disorders screening
 10 instruments, develop certain training materials and distribute certain written
 11 information, and facilitate communication between certain providers and the
 12 Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program; requiring the Department of
 13 Education, beginning on a certain date and in collaboration with the
 14 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to collect certain baseline data,
 15 conduct certain tests for participating providers, provide certain training to
 16 participating providers, collect and analyze the results of certain tests, and
 17 collect certain information on certain screening instruments; requiring the
 18 Department of Education, beginning on a certain date and in collaboration with
 19 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to develop and monitor a certain
 20 referral system between certain pediatricians and the Maryland Infants and
 21 Toddlers Program, and to develop certain support for health care providers;
 22 authorizing the Department of Education to contract with a certain organization
 23 to administer the Pilot Program; requiring the Department of Education to
 24 make a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or
 25 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; defining a certain
 26 term; and generally relating to the Pilot Program to Study and Improve
 27 Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

28 BY adding to

29 Article - Education

30 Section 8-501 through 8-508, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5.

1 Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism
2 Spectrum Disorders"
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

7 **Article - Education**

8 SUBTITLE 5. PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY AND IMPROVE SCREENING PRACTICES FOR
9 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

10 8-501.

11 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY
12 AND IMPROVE SCREENING PRACTICES FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

13 8-502.

14 THERE IS A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY AND IMPROVE SCREENING PRACTICES
15 FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

16 8-503.

17 THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

18 (1) ASSESS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING PRACTICES
19 USED IN PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE SETTINGS;

20 (2) IMPLEMENT AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING PRACTICES
21 AT WELL VISITS FOR 12- TO 36-MONTH OLD CHILDREN IN AT LEAST TWO
22 JURISDICTIONS IN THE STATE;

23 (3) TRAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE EARLY DETECTION OF
24 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

25 (4) IDENTIFY, REFER, AND PROVIDE SERVICES FOR 12- TO 36-MONTH
26 OLD CHILDREN WHO ARE AT RISK FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

27 (5) FACILITATE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND EARLY INTERVENTION
28 SERVICES FOR PARENTS SEEKING AN EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM
29 DISORDERS; AND

30 (6) REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE AND EXPEDITE THE
31 PROVISION OF MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM SERVICES TO
32 CHILDREN WITH SIGNS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS WHO ARE REFERRED BY A
33 PARENT OR PEDIATRICIAN.

1 8-504.

2 THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
3 AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

4 (1) SELECT AT LEAST 30 PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO
5 PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM;

6 (2) ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEDIATRICIANS AND STAFF OF
7 PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

8 (3) ASSESS AVAILABLE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING
9 INSTRUMENTS;

10 (4) IDENTIFY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING PRACTICES
11 USED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE;

12 (5) DEVELOP TRAINING MATERIALS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ON
13 THE EARLY DETECTION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

14 (6) DISTRIBUTE WRITTEN INFORMATION ON THE EARLY DETECTION OF
15 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
16 PREVENTION AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS TO PARENTS WITH
17 CHILDREN IN PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PRACTICES; AND

18 (7) FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE
19 PROVIDERS AND THE MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO:

20 (I) CONDUCT FURTHER ASSESSMENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SIGNS
21 OF AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND

22 (II) PROVIDE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE REFERRED TO
23 THE MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM.

24 8-505.

25 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
26 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

27 (1) COLLECT BASELINE DATA ON PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS':

28 (I) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
29 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

30 (II) REFERRAL PRACTICES WHEN AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
31 IS IDENTIFIED;

32 (2) PRIOR TO CONDUCTING THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (3)
33 OF THIS SECTION, TEST PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS' KNOWLEDGE OF:

1 (I) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
2 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

3 (II) EARLY INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

4 (3) (I) 1. COORDINATE WITH THE KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE'S
5 CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS TO TRAIN PARTICIPATING
6 PROVIDERS ON SCREENING PRACTICES FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS,
7 INCLUDING THE USE OF SCREENING INSTRUMENTS; AND

8 2. TRAIN PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS ON REFERRAL
9 PRACTICES WHEN AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IS IDENTIFIED; AND

10 (II) ENSURE THAT PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS RECEIVE
11 MONETARY COMPENSATION OR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT FOR THE
12 TRAINING;

13 (4) AFTER CONDUCTING THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (3) OF
14 THIS SECTION, RETEST PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS' KNOWLEDGE OF:

15 (1) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
16 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

17 (2) EARLY INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

18 (5) COMPARE AND ANALYZE THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS CONDUCTED
19 UNDER ITEMS (1) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION;

20 (6) ESTABLISH THE USE OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING
21 INSTRUMENTS IN PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS' HEALTH CARE PRACTICES; AND

22 (7) AFTER TRAINING PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS AND ESTABLISHING
23 THE USE OF SCREENING INSTRUMENTS:

24 (I) COLLECT DATA AT REGULAR INTERVALS ON PARTICIPATING
25 PROVIDERS' SCREENING PRACTICES;

26 (II) USE THE DATA TO ANALYZE PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS' USE
27 OF SCREENING INSTRUMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER RECEIVING TRAINING; AND

28 (8) COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE EFFICACY OF AUTISM SPECTRUM
29 DISORDERS SCREENING INSTRUMENTS.

30 8-506.

31 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007, THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
32 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

33 (1) DEVELOP A REFERRAL SYSTEM BETWEEN PEDIATRICIANS AND THE
34 MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM;

1 (2) MONITOR THE REFERRAL SYSTEM BY MEETING WITH
2 PARTICIPATING PEDIATRICIANS TO SOLICIT FEEDBACK AND IDENTIFY ISSUES WITH
3 THE REFERRAL SYSTEM; AND

4 (3) DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS BY:

5 (I) ESTABLISHING A HOTLINE ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;
6 AND

7 (II) PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE
8 KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE'S CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS,
9 THE PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER, AND LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE
10 AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

11 8-507.

12 TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THIS SUBTITLE, THE
13 DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH A QUALIFIED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION WITH:

14 (1) KNOWLEDGE OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

15 (2) RESEARCH AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE EARLY DETECTION
16 OF AND INTERVENTION FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

17 8-508.

18 ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO
19 THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND
20 THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE
21 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
22 THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THIS SUBTITLE.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 July 1, 2005. It shall remain in effect for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,
25 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
26 abrogated and of no further force and effect.