
By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Rules

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.

31 Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism
32 Spectrum Disorders"

33 Annotated Code of Maryland

34 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Education**

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

6 8-501.

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

9 8-502.

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

12 8-503.

13 THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

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

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

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

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

23 (5) FACILITATE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND EARLY INTERVENTION
24 SERVICES FOR PARENTS SEEKING AN EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM
25 DISORDERS; AND

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

30 8-504.

31 THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
32 AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

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

3 (2) ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEDIATRICIANS AND STAFF OF
4 PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

5 (3) ASSESS AVAILABLE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING
6 INSTRUMENTS;

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 8-505.

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

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

25 (I) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
26 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

27 (II) REFERRAL PRACTICES WHEN AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
28 IS IDENTIFIED;

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

31 (I) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
32 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

33 (II) EARLY INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

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

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

7 (II) ENSURE THAT PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS RECEIVE
8 MONETARY COMPENSATION OR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT FOR THE
9 TRAINING;

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

12 (I) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
13 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

14 (II) EARLY INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

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

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

19 (7) AFTER TRAINING PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS AND ESTABLISHING
20 THE USE OF SCREENING INSTRUMENTS:

21 (I) COLLECT DATA AT REGULAR INTERVALS ON PARTICIPATING
22 PROVIDERS' SCREENING PRACTICES;

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

25 (8) COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE EFFICACY OF AUTISM SPECTRUM
26 DISORDERS SCREENING INSTRUMENTS.

27 8-506.

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

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

32 (2) MONITOR THE REFERRAL SYSTEM BY MEETING WITH
33 PARTICIPATING PEDIATRICIANS TO SOLICIT FEEDBACK AND IDENTIFY ISSUES WITH
34 THE REFERRAL SYSTEM; AND

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

1 (I) ESTABLISHING A HOTLINE ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;
2 AND

3 (II) PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE
4 KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE'S CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS,
5 THE PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER, AND LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE
6 AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

7 8-507.

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

10 (1) KNOWLEDGE OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

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

13 8-508.

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

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 July 1, 2005. It shall remain in effect for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,
21 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
22 abrogated and of no further force and effect.