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By: ~~Senator Middleton~~ **Senators Middleton, Hollinger, Conway, Britt,  
Brochin, Colburn, Dyson, Grosfeld, Harris, Kittleman, and Pinsky**

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Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 21, 2005

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2005

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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

1 Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

2 BY adding to

3 Article - Education

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

5 Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism

6 Spectrum Disorders"

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

10 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article - Education**

12 **SUBTITLE 5. PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY AND IMPROVE SCREENING PRACTICES FOR**  
13 **AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.**

14 8-501.

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

17 8-502.

18 THERE IS A PILOT PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, TO STUDY  
19 AND IMPROVE SCREENING PRACTICES FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS ~~IN THE~~  
20 ~~DEPARTMENT~~.

21 8-503.

22 THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

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

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

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

30 (4) IDENTIFY, REFER, AND ~~PROVIDE SERVICES~~ FACILITATE  
31 ASSESSMENTS FOR 12- TO 36-MONTH OLD CHILDREN WHO ARE AT RISK FOR AUTISM  
32 SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

1 (5) FACILITATE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND EARLY INTERVENTION  
2 SERVICES FOR PARENTS SEEKING AN EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM  
3 DISORDERS; AND

4 (6) ~~REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE AND EXPEDITE THE~~  
5 ~~PROVISION OF FACILITATE IMPROVED AND EXPEDITED MARYLAND INFANTS AND~~  
6 ~~TODDLERS PROGRAM SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH SIGNS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM~~  
7 ~~DISORDERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN~~  
8 ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AND WHO ARE  
9 REFERRED BY A PARENT OR PEDIATRICIAN.

10 8-504.

11 THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
12 AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

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

15 (2) ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEDIATRICIANS AND STAFF OF  
16 PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

17 (3) ASSESS AVAILABLE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING  
18 INSTRUMENTS;

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

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

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

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

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

31 (II) PROVIDE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR  
32 THE INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS  
33 ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AND WHO ARE REFERRED TO THE ~~MARYLAND~~  
34 INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM.

1 8-505.

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

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

5 (I) SCREENING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING  
6 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

7 (II) REFERRAL PRACTICES WHEN AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER  
8 IS IDENTIFIED;

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

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

13 (II) EARLY INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

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

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

20 (II) ENSURE THAT PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS RECEIVE  
21 MONETARY COMPENSATION OR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT FOR THE  
22 TRAINING;

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

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

27 (II) EARLY INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

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

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

32 (7) AFTER TRAINING PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS AND ESTABLISHING  
33 THE USE OF SCREENING INSTRUMENTS:

1 (I) COLLECT DATA AT REGULAR INTERVALS ON PARTICIPATING  
2 PROVIDERS' SCREENING PRACTICES; AND

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

5 (8) COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE EFFICACY OF AUTISM SPECTRUM  
6 DISORDERS SCREENING INSTRUMENTS.

7 8-506.

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

10 (1) DEVELOP ~~A~~ AN IMPROVED REFERRAL SYSTEM BETWEEN  
11 PEDIATRICIANS AND THE ~~MARYLAND~~ INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM;

12 (2) MONITOR THE REFERRAL SYSTEM BY MEETING WITH  
13 PARTICIPATING PEDIATRICIANS TO SOLICIT FEEDBACK AND IDENTIFY ISSUES WITH  
14 THE REFERRAL SYSTEM; AND

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

16 (I) ESTABLISHING A HOTLINE ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;  
17 AND

18 (II) PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE  
19 KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE'S CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS,  
20 THE PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER, AND LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE  
21 AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

22 8-507.

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

25 (1) KNOWLEDGE OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

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

28 8-508.

29 ON OR BEFORE ~~JUNE~~ OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
30 REPORT TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
31 COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE,  
32 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE  
33 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THIS SUBTITLE.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
35 July 1, 2005. It shall remain in effect for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,

1 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.