

HOUSE BILL 662

03, P1

~~EMERGENCY BILL~~

2lr0928

By: **Delegate Guyton**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs, Interagency Disabilities**
3 **Board, and the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy – Membership, Staffing,**
4 **and Appointment**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to appoint the State Coordinator for Autism
6 Strategy; altering the membership and staffing of the Advisory Stakeholder Group
7 on Autism-Related Needs; adding the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy to the
8 Interagency Disabilities Board; and generally relating to the Advisory Stakeholder
9 Group on Autism-Related Needs, the Interagency Disabilities Board, and the State
10 Coordinator for Autism Strategy.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Human Services
13 Section 7-111(a) and (e), ~~7-112(b) and (d)~~ 7-112, and 7-128
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Human Services
18 Section ~~7-112(a)~~ and 7-127
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Human Services

1
2 7–111.

3 (a) (1) There is a State Coordinator for Autism Strategy in the Governor’s
4 Office of Community Initiatives.

5 (2) WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, THE
6 GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE STATE COORDINATOR FOR AUTISM STRATEGY.

7 (e) (1) For fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall
8 include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to fund the position of State Coordinator
9 for Autism Strategy and the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs.

10 (2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,
11 THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION
12 IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO FUND ONE SUPPORT STAFF POSITION FOR THE STATE
13 COORDINATOR FOR AUTISM STRATEGY.

14 7–112.

15 (a) There is an Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs.

16 (b) The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs consists of the
17 following members:

18 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE
19 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

20 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY
21 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

22 [(1)] (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State
23 Superintendent’s designee;

24 [(2)] (4) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;

25 [(3)] (5) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary’s designee;

26 [(4)] (6) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary’s designee;

27 [(5)] (7) the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy;

1 [(6)] (8) one representative of the Maryland Speech–Language–Hearing
2 Association;

3 [(7)] (9) one representative of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities
4 Council;

5 [(8)] (10) one representative of the Maryland Occupational Therapy
6 Association;

7 [(9)] (11) one representative of The ARC Maryland;

8 [(10)] (12) one representative of Pathfinders for Autism;

9 [(11)] (13) one representative of Itineris; ~~and~~

10 [(12)] (14) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

11 (i) a school psychologist;

12 (ii) a physical therapist;

13 (iii) a pediatrician;

14 (iv) two parents of children with autism;

15 (v) two self–advocates with autism;

16 (vi) one representative of public universities in the State;

17 (vii) one representative of local public school systems in the State;

18 AND

19 (viii) one representative from the business community; and

20 ~~(ix)~~ (15) any additional members with expertise or experience in
21 autism–related needs as considered necessary, APPOINTED BY THE STATE
22 COORDINATOR FOR AUTISM STRATEGY.

23 (c) The State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall chair the Advisory
24 Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs.

25 (d) The [Department of Disabilities] **GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY**
26 **INITIATIVES** shall provide staff for the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related
27 Needs.

1 (e) IN APPOINTING MEMBERS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,
2 THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL CONSIDER THE GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY OF
3 THE STATE SO THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
4 ON AUTISM-RELATED NEEDS REFLECTS THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE
5 STATE.

6 (F) A member of the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs:

7 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Advisory Stakeholder
8 Group on Autism-Related Needs; but

9 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
10 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11 [(f)] (G) The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs shall work
12 with the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy to:

13 (1) identify and evaluate existing services for individuals with autism and
14 their families;

15 (2) develop a strategic plan for addressing autism-related needs in the
16 State;

17 (3) promote, monitor, and evaluate implementation of the strategic plan;
18 and

19 (4) recommend and implement changes to the strategic plan.

20 [(g)] (H) (1) The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs shall
21 hold its initial meeting on or before December 31, 2020.

22 (2) Beginning in 2021, the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related
23 Needs shall meet quarterly each calendar year.

24 7-127.

25 (a) There is an Interagency Disabilities Board convened by the Governor.

26 (b) The purpose of the Board is to develop the State Disabilities Plan.

27 7-128.

28 The Board consists of the following members:

29 (1) the Secretary of Disabilities;

- 1 (2) the Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (3) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
- 3 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (5) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;
- 5 (6) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
6 Secretary's designee;
- 7 (7) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 8 (8) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;
- 9 (9) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
- 10 (10) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;
- 11 (11) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;
- 12 (12) the Deputy Director of the Division of Children and Youth of the
13 Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, or the Deputy Director's
14 designee;
- 15 (13) the Director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
16 or the Director's designee;
- 17 (14) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 18 (15) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
19 Secretary's designee;
- 20 (16) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,
21 Youth, and Victim Services, or the Executive Director's designee; [and]
- 22 **(17) THE STATE COORDINATOR FOR AUTISM STRATEGY OF THE**
23 **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, OR THE COORDINATOR'S**
24 **DESIGNEE; AND**
- 25 **[(17)] (18)** representatives from any other unit of State government that the
26 Governor designates.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~is an emergency~~
28 ~~measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has~~
29 ~~been passed by a yeo and nay vote supported by three fifths of all the members elected to~~

1 ~~each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is~~
2 ~~enacted~~ October 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.