SENATE BILL 169

By: Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives)

Requested: September 23, 2021
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 8, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

State Autism Strategy – Revisions

2 FOR the purpose of altering the date by which the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy must submit a certain annual report and repealing the requirement that the report be submitted to the Secretary of Disabilities; altering the membership of the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Advisory Stakeholder Group and establishing term requirements for the chair; requiring the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives, rather than the Department of Disabilities, to provide staff to the Advisory Stakeholder Group; and generally relating to the State Autism Strategy.

BY transferring
Article – Human Services
Section 7–111 and 7–112, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

to be
Article – State Government
Section 9.5–102 and 9.5–103, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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.
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Article – State Government

Section 9.5–102(b) and (d) and 9.5–103(b)(11) and (12), (d), and (g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)
(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

BY adding to
Article – State Government
Section 9.5–103(b)(12) and (13) and (c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)
(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

BY repealing
Article – State Government
Section 9.5–103(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)
(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–111 and 7–112, respectively, of Article – Human Services of the Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 9.5–102 and 9.5–103, respectively, of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

9.5–102.

(b) The State Coordinator for Autism Strategy, in consultation with the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs established under [§ 7–112] § 9.5–103 of this subtitle, shall:

(1) identify and evaluate existing public, private, and nonprofit services for individuals with autism and their families;

(2) on or before July 1, 2021, develop a strategic plan for addressing autism–related needs in the State, including, at a minimum, needs in the areas of employment, housing, health care, training for first responders and criminal justice professionals, and identification and intervention;

(3) identify national benchmarks and other performance measures to be included in the strategic plan and used in evaluating the success of the State in addressing autism–related needs; and
monitors and evaluates the implementation of the strategic plan and the success of the State in addressing autism–related needs, including success in meeting national benchmarks.

On or before [July 1] DECEMBER 1 each year, beginning in [2021] 2022, the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall submit a report to [the Secretary of Disabilities.,] the Governor[,] and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of [the State Government Article] THIS ARTICLE, the General Assembly on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of the strategic plan required under subsection (b) of this section.

Within 30 days after a report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection is submitted, the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall publish the report on the [Department’s] website FOR THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.

The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs consists of the following members:

(11) one representative of Itineris; [and]

(12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(13) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) a school psychologist;

(ii) a physical therapist;

(iii) a pediatrician;

(iv) two parents of children with autism;

(v) two self–advocates with autism;

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

(vii) one representative of local public school systems in the State;
(viii) one representative from the business community; and
(ix) any additional members with expertise or experience in autism–related needs as considered necessary.

[c] The State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall chair the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs.]

(c) (1) (i) The Governor shall designate a chair from among the members of the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs.

(ii) The term of the chair is 2 years.

(2) At the end of a term, the chair:

(i) is eligible for redesignation; and

(ii) continues to serve until a successor is designated.

(3) A chair who is designated after a term has begun serves only for the remainder of the term and until a successor is designated.

(d) The [Department of Disabilities] Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives shall provide staff for the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs.

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

(2) Beginning in 2021, the] The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs shall meet quarterly each calendar year.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the term of the initial chair appointed under § 9.5–103(c) of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act, shall begin on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.