

By Senator Klein

30-731-04

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to regional autism centers;  
3           amending s. 1004.55, F.S.; creating an  
4           additional regional autism center in the state;  
5           reducing the number of counties within the  
6           service areas of two existing regional autism  
7           centers; providing an effective date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1004.55,  
12   Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13           1004.55 Regional autism centers.--

14           (1) Seven ~~Six~~ regional autism centers are established  
15   to provide nonresidential resource and training services for  
16   persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual  
17   functioning who have autism, as defined in s. 393.063; who  
18   have a pervasive developmental disorder that is not otherwise  
19   specified; who have an autistic-like disability; who have a  
20   dual sensory impairment; or who have a sensory impairment with  
21   other handicapping conditions. Each center shall be  
22   operationally and fiscally independent and shall provide  
23   services within its geographical region of the state. Each  
24   center shall coordinate services within and between state and  
25   local agencies and school districts but may not duplicate  
26   services provided by those agencies or school districts. The  
27   respective locations and service areas of the centers are:

28           (a) The Department of Communication Disorders at  
29   Florida State University, which serves Bay, Calhoun, Escambia,  
30   Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon,

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1 Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla,  
2 Walton, and Washington Counties.

3 (b) The College of Medicine at the University of  
4 Florida, which serves Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia,  
5 Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Levy, Marion,  
6 Putnam, Suwannee, and Union Counties.

7 (c) The University of Florida Health Science Center at  
8 Jacksonville, which serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler,  
9 Nassau, and St. Johns Counties.

10 (d) The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health  
11 Institute at the University of South Florida, which serves  
12 Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands,  
13 Hillsborough, ~~Indian River~~, Lee, Manatee, ~~Martin~~, ~~Okeechobee~~,  
14 Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, ~~St. Lucie~~, and Sarasota Counties.

15 (e) The Mailman Center for Child Development at the  
16 University of Miami, which serves Broward, Dade, and Monroe,  
17 ~~and Palm Beach~~ Counties.

18 (f) The College of Health and Public Affairs at the  
19 University of Central Florida, which serves Brevard, Lake,  
20 Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia Counties.

21 (g) The Department of Exceptional Student Education at  
22 Florida Atlantic University, which serves Palm Beach, Martin,  
23 St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River Counties.

24 (3) To promote statewide planning and coordination, a  
25 conference must be held annually for staff from each of the  
26 seven ~~five~~ centers and representatives from each center's  
27 constituency board. The purpose of the conference is to  
28 facilitate coordination, networking, cross-training, and  
29 feedback among the staffs and constituency boards of the  
30 centers.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates an additional regional autism center at Florida Atlantic University. Reduces the number of counties within the service areas of two existing regional autism centers.