

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Colleges & Universities Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to regional autism centers; amending s.
7 1004.55, F.S.; creating an additional regional autism
8 center in the state; reducing the number of counties
9 within the service areas of two existing regional autism
10 centers; providing for consistency in service delivery;
11 requiring each constituency board to raise funds;
12 providing a prohibition; providing an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Subsections (1) through (4) of section 1004.55,
17 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

18 1004.55 Regional autism centers.--

19 (1) Seven ~~Six~~ regional autism centers are established to
20 provide nonresidential resource and training services for
21 persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual
22 functioning who have autism, as defined in s. 393.063; who have
23 a pervasive developmental disorder that is not otherwise

HB 885

2005
CS

24 | specified; who have an autistic-like disability; who have a dual
 25 | sensory impairment; or who have a sensory impairment with other
 26 | handicapping conditions. Each center shall be operationally and
 27 | fiscally independent and shall provide services within its
 28 | geographical region of the state provided that service delivery
 29 | shall be consistent for all centers. Each center shall
 30 | coordinate services within and between state and local agencies
 31 | and school districts but may not duplicate services provided by
 32 | those agencies or school districts. The respective locations and
 33 | service areas of the centers are:

34 | (a) The Department of Communication Disorders at Florida
 35 | State University, which serves Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin,
 36 | Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty,
 37 | Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and
 38 | Washington Counties.

39 | (b) The College of Medicine at the University of Florida,
 40 | which serves Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie,
 41 | Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Putnam,
 42 | Suwannee, and Union Counties.

43 | (c) The University of Florida Health Science Center at
 44 | Jacksonville, which serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau,
 45 | and St. Johns Counties.

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

HB 885

2005
CS

51 (e) The Mailman Center for Child Development and the
 52 Department of Psychology at the University of Miami, which
 53 serves Broward, Dade, and ~~Monroe, and Palm Beach~~ Counties.

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

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

60 (2) There is established for each center a constituency
 61 board, which shall work collaboratively with the center. Each
 62 board shall consist of no fewer than six members, each of whom
 63 is either an individual who has a disability that is described
 64 in subsection (1) or is a member of a family that includes a
 65 person who has such a disability, who are selected by each
 66 university president from a list that has been developed by the
 67 Autism Society of Florida and other relevant constituency groups
 68 that represent persons who have sensory impairments as described
 69 in subsection (1). As representatives of the center's
 70 constituencies, these boards shall meet quarterly with the staff
 71 of each of the centers to provide advice on policies,
 72 priorities, and activities. Each board shall submit to the
 73 university president and to the Department of Education an
 74 annual report that evaluates the activities and accomplishments
 75 of its center during the year. Beginning in the 2006-2007 fiscal
 76 year, the board for each center must raise funds equivalent to 2
 77 percent of the total funds allocated to that center in each
 78 fiscal year.

HB 885

2005
CS

79 (3) To promote statewide planning and coordination, a
80 conference must be held annually for staff from each of the
81 seven ~~five~~ centers and representatives from each center's
82 constituency board. The purpose of the conference is to
83 facilitate coordination, networking, cross-training, and
84 feedback among the staffs and constituency boards of the
85 centers.

86 (4)(a) Each center shall provide:

87 1.~~(a)~~ A staff that has expertise in autism and autistic-
88 like behaviors and in sensory impairments.

89 2.~~(b)~~ Individual and direct family assistance in the home,
90 community, and school. A center's assistance should not supplant
91 other responsibilities of state and local agencies, and each
92 school district is responsible for providing an appropriate
93 education program for clients of a center who are school age.

94 3.~~(c)~~ Technical assistance and consultation services,
95 including specific intervention and assistance for a client of
96 the center, the client's family, and the school district, and
97 any other services that are appropriate.

98 4.~~(d)~~ Professional training programs that include
99 developing, providing, and evaluating preservice and inservice
100 training in state-of-the-art practices for personnel who work
101 with the populations served by the centers and their families.

102 5.~~(e)~~ Public education programs to increase awareness of
103 the public about autism, autistic-related disabilities of
104 communication and behavior, dual sensory impairments, and
105 sensory impairments with other handicapping conditions.

HB 885

2005
CS

106 | (b) Direct medical intervention or pharmaceutical
107 | intervention is prohibited in any center.

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