

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to autism; creating the Autism  
 3       Spectrum Disorder Study Committee to study autism  
 4       spectrum disorder in families in which English is the  
 5       second language; providing for membership, meetings,  
 6       and duties; prohibiting committee members from  
 7       receiving compensation for their services; authorizing  
 8       certain funding for publications, subject to approval  
 9       of the State Surgeon General; requiring a report to  
 10      the Governor and Legislature; providing for expiration  
 11      of the committee; providing an effective date.

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

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 15           Section 1. Autism Spectrum Disorder Study Committee.—

16           (1) There is created an Autism Spectrum Disorder Study  
 17 Committee to study the effects of autism spectrum disorder on  
 18 families in which English is the second language.

19           (2) The committee shall advise the Agency for Persons with  
 20 Disabilities regarding legislative, programmatic, and  
 21 administrative matters that relate to occurrences of autism  
 22 spectrum disorder in families in which English is the second  
 23 language.

24           (3) The committee shall be composed of nine members, which  
 25 shall include the State Surgeon General or an employee of the  
 26 Department of Health designated by the State Surgeon General,  
 27 the Executive Director of the Family Network on Disabilities,  
 28 Inc., or his or her designee, and seven additional members, of

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29 whom three shall be appointed by the Governor, two shall be  
30 appointed by the President of the Senate, and two shall be  
31 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of the  
32 members appointed to the committee:

33 (a) At least one member must be a physician licensed under  
34 chapter 458, Florida Statutes.

35 (b) At least one member must be a behavior analyst  
36 certified under s. 393.17, Florida Statutes, who specializes in  
37 the treatment of autism spectrum disorder through speech  
38 therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or applied  
39 behavior analysis; a psychologist licensed under chapter 490,  
40 Florida Statutes; or a psychotherapist licensed under chapter  
41 491, Florida Statutes.

42 (c) At least one member must be the parent of a child with  
43 autism spectrum disorder.

44 (d) At least one member must be an educator certified in  
45 special education.

46 (4) Initial appointments shall be made by July 1, 2012. A  
47 vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the original  
48 appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

49 (5) The committee shall elect a chair at the first meeting  
50 by a majority vote of the members present. A majority of the  
51 membership constitutes a quorum.

52 (6) The committee shall meet at least six times bimonthly,  
53 or more frequently upon the call of the chair, beginning in  
54 August 2012. The final meeting shall be held no later than  
55 August 30, 2013.

56 (7) Committee members are not entitled to compensation for

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57 their services and state funds may not be expended for the  
58 management and operation of the committee except, at the  
59 discretion of the State Surgeon General, funds expended for the  
60 cost of publishing recommendations and any public announcements.

61 (8) The committee shall issue a report containing its  
62 findings and recommendations for community awareness campaigns  
63 relating to autism spectrum disorder in families in which  
64 English is the second language to the Governor, the President of  
65 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
66 September 1, 2013.

67 (9) The committee shall expire September 1, 2013.

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