

By Senator Garcia

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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.
12

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

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 10 members, of whom
25 four shall be appointed by the Governor, three shall be
26 appointed by the President of the Senate, and three shall be
27 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of the
28 members appointed to the committee:

29 (a) At least one member must be a physician licensed under

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30 chapter 458 or chapter 459, Florida Statutes.

31 (b) At least one member must be a psychiatrist licensed
32 under chapter 458 or chapter 459, Florida Statutes.

33 (c) At least one member must be a psychologist licensed
34 under chapter 490, Florida Statutes.

35 (d) 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, or a provider licensed under chapter 491,
40 Florida Statutes.

41 (e) At least one member must be the State Surgeon General
42 or an employee of the Department of Health appointed by the
43 State Surgeon General.

44 (f) At least one member must be the parent of a child with
45 autism spectrum disorder.

46 (g) At least one member must be an educator certified in
47 special education.

48 (h) At least one member must be a doctor from UM-NSU CARD,
49 Center for Autism & Related Disabilities.

50 (j) At least one member must have autism spectrum disorder.

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

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

57 (6) The committee shall meet at least six times bimonthly,
58 or more frequently upon call of the chair, beginning in August

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59 2012. The final meeting shall be held no later than August 30,
60 2013.

61 (7) Committee members are not entitled to compensation for
62 their services, and state funds may not be expended for the
63 management and operation of the committee except, at the
64 discretion of the State Surgeon General, funds may be expended
65 for the cost of publishing recommendations and any public
66 announcements.

67 (8) The committee shall issue a report containing its
68 findings and recommendations for community awareness campaigns
69 relating to autism spectrum disorder in families in which
70 English is the second language to the Governor, the President of
71 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
72 September 1, 2013.

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

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