

By Senator Harrell

31-00391-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to students with autism spectrum disorder; amending s. 1012.582, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing, the State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; requiring that such rules include a requirement related to autism spectrum disorder for certain K-12 teachers; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1012.582, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.582 Continuing education and inservice training for teaching students with developmental and emotional or behavioral disabilities.—

(4) (a) The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~ adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

(b) Such rules must require a K-12 teacher who teaches a class with at least 50 percent of students having autism spectrum disorder to hold an Autism Spectrum Disorder Endorsement.

(c) Such rules must allow for an exception to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Endorsement requirement in paragraph (b) if a teacher holds an Endorsement in Severe or Profound Disabilities, has taught students with autism spectrum disorder for a minimum of 3 years, and has been rated as highly effective in the preceding 3-year period pursuant to s. 1012.34.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.