

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 768

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RUPP.

Pre-filed December 1, 2007, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 26, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri commission on autism spectrum disorders.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 26, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new  
2 section, to be known as section 26.350, to read as follows:

**26.350. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "autism  
2 spectrum disorder" shall be defined to include: pervasive  
3 developmental disorder; Asperger's syndrome; childhood disintegrative  
4 disorder; Rett's syndrome; fragile X syndrome; and autism.**

5 **2. There is hereby created the "Missouri Commission on Autism  
6 Spectrum Disorders" to be housed within the department of mental  
7 health. The department of mental health shall provide technical,  
8 actuarial, and administrative support as required by the  
9 commission. The commission shall meet on at least four occasions  
10 annually, including at least two occasions before the end of December  
11 of the first year the committee is fully established. The commission  
12 may hold meetings by telephone or video conference. The commission  
13 shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, general  
14 assembly, and relevant state agencies regarding matters concerning all  
15 state levels of autism spectrum disorder services, including healthcare,  
16 education, and other adult and adolescent services.**

17 **3. The commission shall be composed of twenty-three members,  
18 consisting of the following:**

19 **(1) Four members of the general assembly, with two members  
20 from the senate and two members from the house of  
21 representatives. The president pro tem of the senate shall appoint one**

22 member from the senate and the minority leader of the senate shall  
23 appoint one member from the senate. The speaker of house shall  
24 appoint one member from the house of representatives and the  
25 minority leader of the house shall appoint one member from the house  
26 of representatives;

27 (2) The director of the department of mental health, or his or her  
28 designee;

29 (3) The commissioner of the department of elementary and  
30 secondary education, or his or her designee;

31 (4) The director of the department of health and senior services,  
32 or his or her designee;

33 (5) The director of the department of public safety, or his or her  
34 designee;

35 (6) The commissioner of the department of higher education, or  
36 his or her designee;

37 (7) The director of the department of social services, or his or  
38 her designee;

39 (8) The director of the department of insurance, financial  
40 institutions and professional registration, or his or her designee;

41 (9) Two representatives from different institutions of higher  
42 learning located in Missouri;

43 (10) An individual employed as a director of special education at  
44 a school district located in Missouri;

45 (11) A speech and language pathologist;

46 (12) A diagnostician;

47 (13) A mental health provider;

48 (14) A primary care physician;

49 (15) Three parents of individuals with autism spectrum disorder,  
50 including one parent of an individual under the age of eighteen and  
51 one parent of an individual over the age of eighteen;

52 (16) One individual with autism spectrum disorder;

53 (17) A representative from an independent private provider or  
54 non-profit provider or organization.

55 The members of the commission, other than the members from the  
56 general assembly and ex-officio members, shall be appointed by the  
57 governor with the advice and consent of the senate. A chair of the  
58 commission shall be selected by the members of the commission. Of the

59 members first appointed to the commission by the governor, half shall  
60 serve a term of two years and half shall serve a term of one year, and  
61 thereafter, members shall serve a term of two years. Members shall  
62 continue to serve until their successor is duly appointed and  
63 qualified. Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same  
64 manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve on the  
65 commission without compensation but may be reimbursed for their  
66 actual and necessary expenses from moneys appropriated to the  
67 department of mental health.

68         4. The members of the commission shall consist of a broad  
69 representation of Missouri citizens, both urban and rural, who are  
70 concerned with the health and quality of life for individuals with  
71 autism spectrum disorder.

72         5. The commission shall make recommendations for developing  
73 a comprehensive statewide plan for an integrated system of training,  
74 treatment, and services for individuals of all ages with autism spectrum  
75 disorder. By July 1, 2009, the commission shall issue preliminary  
76 findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

77         6. In preparing the state plan, the commission shall specifically  
78 perform the following responsibilities and report on them accordingly,  
79 in conjunction with state agencies and the Office of Autism Services:

80             (1) Study and report on the means for developing a coordinated  
81 system of care delivery across the state to address the increased and  
82 increasing presence of autism spectrum disorder and ensure that  
83 resources are created, well-utilized, and appropriately spread across  
84 the state;

85             (a) Determine the need for the creation of additional centers for  
86 diagnostic excellence in designated sectors of the state, which could  
87 provide clinical services, including assessment, diagnoses, and  
88 treatment of patients;

89             (b) Plan for effectively evaluating regional service areas  
90 throughout the state and their capacity, including outlining personnel  
91 and skills that exist within the service area, other capabilities that  
92 exist, and resource needs that may be unmet;

93             (c) Assess the need for additional behavioral intervention  
94 capabilities and, as necessary, the means for expanding those  
95 capabilities in a regional service area;

96           **(d) Develop recommendations for expanding these services in**  
97 **conjunction with hospitals after considering the resources that exist in**  
98 **terms of specialty clinics and hospitals, and hospital inpatient care**  
99 **capabilities;**

100           **(2) Conduct an assessment of the need for coordinated, enhanced**  
101 **and targeted special education capabilities within each region of the**  
102 **state;**

103           **(3) Develop a recommendation for enlisting appropriate**  
104 **universities and colleges to ensure support and collaboration in**  
105 **developing certification or degree programs for students specializing**  
106 **in autism spectrum disorder intervention. This may include degree**  
107 **programs in education, special education, social work, and psychology;**  
108 **and**

109           **(4) Other responsibilities may include but not be limited to:**

110           **(a) Provide recommendations regarding training programs and**  
111 **the content of training programs being developed;**

112           **(b) Recommend individuals to participate in a committee of**  
113 **major stakeholders charged with developing screening, diagnostic,**  
114 **assessment, and treatment standards for Missouri;**

115           **(c) Participate in recommending a panel of qualified**  
116 **professionals and experts to review existing models of evidence-based**  
117 **educational practices for adaptation specific to Missouri;**

118           **(d) Examine the barriers to accurate information of the**  
119 **prevalence of individuals with autism spectrum disorder across the**  
120 **state and recommend a process for accurate reporting of demographic**  
121 **data;**

122           **(e) Explore the need for the creation of interagency councils and**  
123 **evaluation of current councils to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated**  
124 **system of care for all individuals with autism spectrum disorder.**

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