

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE BILL NO. 768**  
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Reported from the Committee on Seniors, Families and Public Health, February 21, 2008, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

3524S.07C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

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**AN ACT**

To amend chapter 633, 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 633, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 633.200, to read as follows:

**633.200. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "autism spectrum disorder" shall be defined as in standard diagnostic criteria for pervasive developmental disorder, to include autistic disorder; Asperger's syndrome; pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified; childhood disintegrative disorder; and Rett's syndrome.**

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

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

**(1) Four members of the general assembly, with two members from the senate and two members from the house of**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 (11) A speech and language pathologist;

47 (12) A diagnostician;

48 (13) A mental health provider;

49 (14) A primary care physician;

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

53 (16) Two individuals with autism spectrum disorder;

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

56 (18) A member of a county developmental disability board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

127           **(f) Study or explore other developmental delay disorders and**  
128 **genetic conditions known to be associated with autism, including**  
129 **fragile X syndrome; Sotos syndrome; Angelman syndrome; and tuberous**  
130 **sclerosis.**

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