



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Eric Schmitt

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Sen. Eric Schmitt's Bill Ensuring Local Autism Needs are Met is Signed into Law

JEFFERSON CITY – [Senate Bill 157](#), sponsored by Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Glendale) and signed by the governor today, codifies into law the regional autism projects that provide Autism Spectrum Disorder services to approximately 2,500 families statewide.

The state's five regional autism projects (Central, East, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Missouri) will be run by the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities. Services provided by the projects include assessment, advocacy training, therapy, and parent or caregiver training.

The legislation specifies that each project will have a regional parent advisory council and that the division will establish the Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism. Parent advisory councils include seven to nine individuals who have family members with autism, including young children, school-age children, and adults.

"For many families with loved ones affected by autism, the availability of services and resources is an issue that is front and center in their lives each and every day," said Sen. Schmitt. "It is important to me to make sure regional autism projects are protected under law so we can continue to empower families and give them a voice in how precious autism dollars are spent. I am pleased that the governor and my colleagues in the Legislature agree."

Now that the bill has been signed by the governor, the new law goes into effect on August 28th.

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