

HOUSE BILL 1206

By Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, Chapter 1, relative to autism spectrum disorder.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 25, is amended by deleting the part and substituting the following:

68-1-2501.

There is created the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder to establish a long-term plan for a system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. The advisory council shall make recommendations and provide leadership in program development regarding matters concerning all levels of autism spectrum disorder services, including, but not limited to, health care, education, and other adult and adolescent services.

68-1-2502.

(a) The council shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;
- (2) The commissioner of intellectual and developmental disabilities or the commissioner's designee;
- (3) The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;
- (4) The commissioner of human services or the commissioner's designee;
- (5) The commissioner of commerce and insurance or the commissioner's designee;

(6) The deputy commissioner of the bureau of TennCare, or the deputy commissioner's designee;

(7) The commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services, or the commissioner's designee; and

(8) Six (6) adult individuals from persons with ASD, or who are either family members or primary caregivers of persons with ASD; provided, that two (2) individuals shall represent each grand division of the state and those persons shall be appointed by the governor after the governor receives nominations from Tennessee not-for-profit organizations who serve individuals and families with autism spectrum disorder.

(b) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The governor shall appoint a chair from the members named to the council. The council shall meet quarterly and may meet more often upon a call of the chair.

(c) All appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the council upon request of the council.

(d) If vacancies occur on the council for any cause, the vacancies shall be filled by the respective appointing authority within sixty (60) days.

(e) No council members shall receive compensation, nor shall members be entitled to reimbursement for actual travel and other expenses incurred in attending any meeting and in performing any duties prescribed in this part.

68-1-2503. The council shall:

(1) Assess the current and future impact of autism spectrum disorder on the residents of Tennessee;

(2) Assess the availability of programs and services currently provided for early screening diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder;

(3) Seek additional input and recommendations from a board representing stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to, providers, clinicians, institutions of higher

education, and those concerned with the health and quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder;

(4) Develop a comprehensive statewide plan for an integrated system of training, treatment, and services for individuals of all ages with autism spectrum disorder;

(5) Ensure interagency collaboration as the comprehensive statewide system of care for autism spectrum disorder is developed and implemented;

(6) Coordinate available resources related to developing and implementing a system of care for autism spectrum disorder; and

(7) Coordinate state budget requests related to systems of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorders based on the studies and recommendations of this council.

SECTION 2. The Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder created by Section 1 of this act shall terminate on June 30, 2017.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.