

ACT# 2009- 592

1 HB615
2 108967-4
3 By Representative Ward
4 RFD: Education Appropriations
5 First Read: 26-FEB-09



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ENROLLED, An Act,

Relating to autism centers; to provide for the establishment of regional autism centers; to provide for creation of a constituency board, which shall work collaboratively with the centers, and for the appointment of members to the board; and to allow the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (ALIACC) and the regional autism centers to adopt necessary rules to carry out the purposes of this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) (1) There is established ~~in each State Board of Education district~~ determined geographic regions of the state one or more autism centers whose purpose is to provide nonresidential resource and training services for persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual functioning who have any of the following:

- a. Autism.
- b. A pervasive developmental disorder that is not otherwise specified.
- ~~c. An autistic-like disability.~~
- ~~d. A dual sensory impairment.~~
- c. As determined by the ALIACC, other disability populations which may receive benefit from the services and activities of the regional centers.

1 ~~e. A sensory impairment with other handicapping~~
2 ~~conditions.~~

3 (2) Each center shall be operationally and fiscally
4 independent, and provide evidence-based services within its
5 geographical region of the state. Service delivery shall be
6 consistent for all centers. Each center shall coordinate
7 services within and between state and local agencies and
8 school districts but may not duplicate services provided by
9 those agencies or school districts. The respective locations
10 and service areas of the centers shall be recommended by the
11 ALIACC and selected by the ~~State Board of Education Governor,~~
12 the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives.

14 (b) (1) There is established for each center a
15 constituency board, which shall work collaboratively with the
16 center. Each board shall consist of no fewer than six members,
17 each of whom is either an individual or is a member of a
18 family that includes a person who has a disability that is
19 described in subsection (a).

20 (2) a. The ~~State Board of Education Governor, the~~
21 Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives shall select the members for the board from a
23 list that has been developed by the ~~Autism Society of Alabama~~
24 ALIACC and other relevant constituency groups that represent
25 persons who have sensory impairments as described in

1 subsection (a). The ~~State Board of Education~~ Governor, the
2 Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives shall appoint members who reflect the racial,
4 gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the
5 state.

6 b. As representatives of the center's
7 constituencies, these boards shall meet quarterly with the
8 staff of each of the centers to provide advice on policies,
9 priorities, and activities. Each board shall submit to the
10 ~~Department of Education~~ ALIACC an annual report that evaluates
11 the activities and accomplishments of its center during the
12 year.

13 (c) To promote statewide planning and coordination,
14 a conference shall be held annually for staff from each of the
15 centers and representatives from each center's constituency
16 board. The purpose of the conference shall be to facilitate
17 coordination, networking, cross-training, and feedback among
18 the staffs and constituency boards of the centers.

19 (d) Each center shall provide the following:

20 (1) A staff that has expertise in autism and
21 ~~autistic-like behaviors and in sensory impairments~~ related
22 disabilities.

23 (2) Individual and direct family assistance in the
24 home, community, and school. A center's assistance may not
25 supplant other responsibilities of state and local agencies,

1 and each school district shall be responsible for providing an
2 appropriate education program for clients of a center who are
3 school age, inclusive of preschool special education.

4 (3) Technical assistance and consultation services,
5 including specific intervention and assistance for a client of
6 the center, the family of the client, and the school district,
7 and any other services that are appropriate.

8 (4) Professional training programs that include
9 developing, providing, and evaluating preservice and inservice
10 training in state-of-the-art practices for personnel who work
11 with the populations served by the centers and their families.

12 (5) Public education programs to increase awareness
13 of the public about autism, and autistic-related disabilities
14 ~~of, communication and behavior, dual sensory impairments, and~~
15 ~~sensory impairments with other handicapping conditions.~~

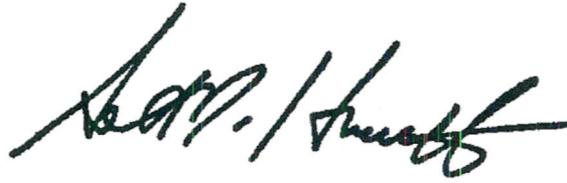
16 (e) Where The number of regional centers shall be
17 determined by the ALIACC, and where possible, the centers
18 shall be based on the campuses of state universities and
19 colleges which provide a proposal for a center to the Alabama
20 Interagency Autism Coordinating Council.

21 (f) The Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating
22 Council ~~in cooperation with the State Board of Education~~ and
23 the regional autism centers, shall adopt the necessary rules
24 to implement and administer this act.

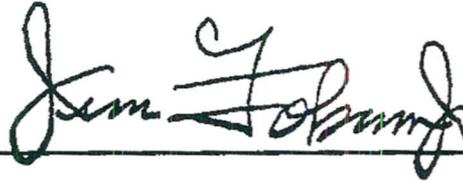
1 (g) The Provisions of this section shall become
2 operative only when funds are appropriated by the legislature
3 through a line item appropriation.

4 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
5 first day of the third month following its passage and
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives



President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 01-APR-09, as amended.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

07-MAY-09

Amended and Passed

House

07-MAY-09

Concurred in Sen-
ate Amendment

APPROVED *May 20, 2009*
TIME *9:04 am*
Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State
Act Num....: 2009-592
Bill Num...: H-615
Recv'd 05/20/09 11:21amJJB