



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 538

February Session, 2006

Substitute House Bill No. 5471

House of Representatives, April 18, 2006

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Mental Retardation, in consultation with the Commissioners of Social
3 Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services and any other
4 commissioner the Commissioner of Mental Retardation deems
5 appropriate, shall establish a pilot autism spectrum disorders program,
6 to provide a coordinated system of supports and services, including
7 case management, for persons with autism spectrum disorders who do
8 not have mental retardation, as defined in section 1-1g of the general
9 statutes, and their families. The pilot program shall serve up to fifty
10 adults with autism spectrum disorders who are not eligible for services
11 from the Department of Mental Retardation under chapter 319b of the
12 general statutes.

13 (b) The Commissioner of Mental Retardation shall establish
14 eligibility requirements for participation in the program.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$
Department of Mental Retardation	GF - Implements the Budget	\$1 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) to establish a pilot program to provide a coordinated system of supports and services for up to 50 adults with autism spectrum disorders who are not eligible for DMR services. sHB 5007 (the budget bill), as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee includes \$1 million in funding in FY 07 to support the pilot program for autism services (including service coordination, supported employment, supported living and transportation). Up to 50 individuals will be provided services to meet their individualized needs with the annual cost per person varying from \$15,000 - \$30,000. The \$1 million funding in FY 07 supports a phase-in of services starting October 1, 2006.

The bill also requires the department to submit a report to the Public Health Committee no later than January 1, 2009 with the results of the pilot program and recommendations. The department can meet this reporting requirement without additional resources.

The Out Years

It is anticipated that the annualized cost to support the pilot program will result in \$1.3 million in FY 08. The bill requires the

termination of the pilot program no later than October 1, 2008; it is unknown if funding would be eliminated at that time.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5471*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) commissioner to establish a pilot program to provide coordinated services and support to people with autism spectrum disorders who do not also have mental retardation. The program must serve up to 50 people who are not eligible for DMR services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS PILOT PROGRAM

The pilot program must begin by October 1, 2006 and must end by October 1, 2008. When establishing the program, the bill requires the DMR commissioner to consult with the social services and mental health and addiction services commissioners and any other commissioner he believes appropriate. He must establish eligibility requirements for program participation, identify appropriate services and supports for each participant and his or her family, and coordinate the provision of those services and supports. He may designate someone to perform the identification and coordination components.

Finally, the bill requires the commissioner to report to the Public Health Committee on the pilot program's results by January 1, 2009. The report must contain recommendations about a system to address this population's needs, including (1) creating an independent advisory council to advise DMR on system design, implementation, and quality enhancement; (2) establishing procedural safeguards; (3) designing and implementing a quality enhancement and improvement

process; and (4) designing and implementing an interagency data and information management system.

BACKGROUND

Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) as a group of developmental disabilities caused by a brain abnormality that leads to problems with social and communication skills. ASDs include autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). ASD symptoms include marked impairment in the use of multiple nonverbal behaviors; lack of social or emotional interaction; delay in, or lack of, spoken language development; repetitive and stereotyped use of language; and preoccupation with parts of objects. Most people diagnosed with ASD test below 70 on intelligence quotient tests, the level that generally makes an individual eligible for DMR services, but many test above 70.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/10/2006)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 51 Nay 0 (03/31/2006)