



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 672

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5666

House of Representatives, April 17, 2008

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 CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-215b of the 2008 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, in consultation
5 with the Commissioners of Social Services and Mental Health and
6 Addiction Services and any other commissioner the Commissioner of
7 Developmental Services deems appropriate, shall establish a pilot
8 autism spectrum disorders program, to provide a coordinated system
9 of supports and services, including case management, for persons with
10 autism spectrum disorders who do not have mental retardation, as
11 defined in section 1-1g, and their families. The pilot program shall
12 serve up to [fifty] seventy-five adults with autism spectrum disorders
13 who are not eligible for services from the Department of
14 Developmental Services under this chapter.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall establish
 16 eligibility requirements for participation in the program. The
 17 commissioner shall expand the pilot program to ensure that, on and
 18 after the effective date of this section, access to the pilot program is
 19 available to persons in a geographic area not served by the program
 20 prior to said date.

21 (c) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
 22 commissioner's designee, shall identify appropriate individualized
 23 services and supports for each person in the program and the family of
 24 each person in the program and shall coordinate the provision of such
 25 services and supports to such person and family.

26 (d) The pilot program shall commence on or before October 1, 2006,
 27 and shall terminate not later than [October 1, 2008] June 30, 2009.

28 (e) The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall report, in
 29 accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
 30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
 31 health not later than January 1, 2009, concerning the results of such
 32 pilot program. The report shall include, recommendations concerning
 33 a system for addressing the needs of persons with autism spectrum
 34 disorder, including, but not limited to, recommendations (1)
 35 establishing an independent council to advise the Department of
 36 Developmental Services with respect to system design,
 37 implementation and quality enhancement, (2) establishing procedural
 38 safeguards, (3) designing and implementing a quality enhancement
 39 and improvement process, and (4) designing and implementing an
 40 interagency data and information management system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-215b

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The new language in Subsec. (b) was rewritten for clarity.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*
APP *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

APP

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Department of Developmental Services	GF - See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the capacity of the autism pilot program from 50 to 75 individuals. PA 07-1 JSS, the biennial budget, included increased funding of \$1 million in the Department of Developmental Services in FY 09 to create an autism division and expand the pilot program (\$500,000 in Personal Services and \$500,000 in the Pilot Program for Autism Services accounts). This results in total FY 09 funding of \$1.5 million in the Pilot Program for Autism Services account. Currently, there are 29 individuals¹ enrolled in the pilot program, which has a total FY 08 appropriation of \$1 million². Given the average annual cost of the current enrollees and other program costs; it is anticipated that an additional 18 - 20 individuals can be served in the pilot program in FY 09 (for a total of 47 - 49 participants).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹ The level of funding per enrollee’s individual budget varies depending on need; however, the average annual cost per individual budget is \$23,000.

² The pilot program account supports individual budgets of each enrollee; training; social skills groups; and other program costs.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5666*****AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands, from 50 to 75, the number of people who can participate in the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) pilot program for adults with autism spectrum disorders but not mental retardation. The program provides coordinated services and support, including case management, for people not otherwise eligible for DDS services and their families.

The bill requires the DDS commissioner to ensure that eligible adults living outside the pilot's current service area (parts of New Haven and Middlesex counties) have access to the expanded slots.

The bill extends the pilot's end date for nine months, from October 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The law requires DSS to report on the pilot's results by January 1, 2009.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Autism Spectrum Pilot Program***

The pilot program was created in 2006 (PA 06-188) and currently serves 27 people. Its service area encompasses Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Clinton, Derby, Durham, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Wallingford, Westbrook, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/14/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 54 Nay 0 (03/28/2008)