



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6719

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY SERVICES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER, COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS AND NONVERBAL LEARNING DISORDERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section, "emergency services" means law enforcement, fire fighting,
3 medical, ambulance and other emergency services.

4 (b) Not later than December 31, 2023, the Departments of
5 Developmental Services, Children and Families, and Emergency
6 Services and Public Protection shall jointly develop guidelines and best
7 practices for municipalities for the creation and implementation of
8 emergency services awareness programming for children and adults
9 with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairments and nonverbal
10 learning disorders. Such programming shall include, but need not be
11 limited to, opportunities for such children and adults to observe and
12 interact, in a setting that is suited to the developmental and sensory
13 needs of such children and adults, with (1) uniformed emergency
14 services personnel and vehicles used by such personnel, (2) flashing
15 lights and sirens associated with such vehicles, and (3) mock traffic
16 stops.

17 (c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Departments of
18 Developmental Services, Children and Families, and Emergency

19 Services and Public Protection shall publish the guidelines and best
20 practices developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on said
21 departments' Internet web sites.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
23 section, "emergency services" means law enforcement, fire fighting,
24 medical, ambulance and other emergency services.

25 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Emergency
26 Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Departments
27 of Developmental Services and Children and Families and at least one
28 organization that advocates for individuals with autism spectrum
29 disorder, shall develop and assemble sensory kits to be utilized by
30 emergency services personnel who, in the performance of their duties,
31 interact with children and adults with autism spectrum disorder,
32 cognitive impairments or nonverbal learning disorders. Such sensory
33 kits shall (1) assist such children and adults in managing emotions and
34 anxiety during interactions with such personnel and during
35 emergencies to which such personnel respond, and (2) include, but
36 need not be limited to, noise-canceling headphones, dark tinted glasses
37 and tactile objects or toys used to reduce anxiety.

38 (c) On or before September 1, 2025, any municipality that created
39 and implemented emergency services awareness programming
40 pursuant to the guidelines and best practices published pursuant to
41 subsection (c) of section 1 of this act may apply to the Department of
42 Emergency Services and Public Protection, in a form and manner
43 prescribed by the department, to receive sensory kits developed and
44 assembled pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, for use by
45 emergency services personnel in such municipality. Upon receipt of
46 any such application, the department shall provide such municipality
47 three sensory kits per ten thousand residents of such municipality.

48 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
49 section, "emergency services" means law enforcement, fire fighting,
50 medical, ambulance and other emergency services.

51 (b) Not later than December 31, 2023, the Department of Emergency
52 Services and Public Protection shall develop a form for distribution by
53 municipal police departments to parents and guardians of children
54 and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairments and
55 nonverbal learning disorders. Such form shall record information that
56 may assist emergency services personnel in their interactions with
57 such individuals, including, but not limited to, the following:

58 (1) The individual's name, nickname, date of birth, sex, height,
59 weight, eye color, hair color and address and any scars or identifying
60 marks the individual has;

61 (2) The name of a person who may be contacted by such personnel
62 in an emergency pertaining to the individual, and such person's
63 telephone number;

64 (3) The individual's language and communication skills, including,
65 but not limited to, whether the individual (A) is verbal or nonverbal,
66 (B) speaks American Sign Language, and (C) can read or write,
67 communicate by pointing to pictures, repeat questions or respond
68 "yes" or "no" to questions;

69 (4) Whether the individual is sensitive to noise, touch, light, crowds
70 or other stimuli;

71 (5) Conditions, circumstances or items the individual dislikes or
72 avoids, including, but not limited to, eye contact, being wet or dirty,
73 interacting with strangers and certain clothing or shoes;

74 (6) Atypical behaviors the individual exhibits, including, but not
75 limited to, speaking loudly, self-injury, running if chased, vocal
76 stimming, making high-pitched noises, disregarding or having no
77 sense of danger and sensory seeking;

78 (7) Pertinent medical information, including, but not limited to,
79 whether the individual is hearing or visually impaired or has a seizure
80 disorder, motor or vocal tics or a high pain tolerance; and

81 (8) Methods such personnel may use to calm the individual,
82 including, but not limited to, use of a calm and quiet voice or noise-
83 canceling headphones, providing the individual with time alone or
84 specific food items and asking the individual how such personnel can
85 help the individual.

86 (c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Emergency
87 Services and Public Protection shall publish the form developed
88 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section on its Internet web site. On
89 and after January 15, 2024, each municipal police department shall
90 make copies of such form available in a publicly accessible area of such
91 department.

92 (d) The parent or guardian of any child or adult with autism
93 spectrum disorder, a cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning
94 disorder may complete the form published and made available
95 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and return it to the municipal
96 police department in the municipality in which such child or adult
97 resides.

98 (e) Upon receipt of a completed form returned pursuant to
99 subsection (d) of this section, a municipal police department shall
100 record the information provided on such form in a searchable
101 electronic database maintained by such police department, and make
102 such database available to (1) each police officer employed by such
103 department for purposes of determining whether a child or adult with
104 autism spectrum disorder, a cognitive impairment or nonverbal
105 learning disorder resides at an address to which such police officer is
106 responding, and (2) the public safety answering point established and
107 operated by the municipality pursuant to section 28-25a of the general
108 statutes in which such police department is located, for use in
109 accordance with section 4 of this act.

110 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after January 15, 2024,
111 each emergency dispatcher employed by a public safety answering
112 point established and operated pursuant to section 28-25a of the

113 general statutes shall, when practicable, conduct a search of the
114 electronic database made available to such public safety answering
115 point pursuant to section 3 of this act, when dispatching law
116 enforcement, fire fighting, medical, ambulance or other emergency
117 services to a residential address, for the purposes of (1) determining
118 whether a child or adult with autism spectrum disorder, a cognitive
119 impairment or nonverbal learning disorder resides at such address,
120 and (2) communicating information concerning any such child or adult
121 to any such responding emergency services personnel.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*