



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 Developmental

18 Services, Children and Families, and Emergency Services and Public
19 Protection shall publish the guidelines and best practices developed
20 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on said departments' Internet
21 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 of
27 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 need
36 not be limited to, noise-canceling headphones, dark tinted glasses and
37 tactile objects or toys used to reduce anxiety.

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

64 (3) The individual's language and communication skills, including,
65 but not limited to, whether the individual (A) is verbal or nonverbal, (B)
66 speaks American Sign Language, and (C) can read or write,
67 communicate by pointing to pictures, repeat questions or respond "yes"
68 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 sense
77 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 and
89 after January 15, 2024, each municipal police department shall make
90 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 spectrum
93 disorder, a cognitive impairment or nonverbal learning disorder may
94 complete the form published and made available pursuant to subsection
95 (c) of this section and return it to the municipal police department in the
96 municipality in which such child or adult resides.

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

109 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after January 15, 2024,

110 each emergency dispatcher employed by a public safety answering
111 point established and operated pursuant to section 28-25a of the general
112 statutes shall, when practicable, conduct a search of the electronic
113 database made available to such public safety answering point pursuant
114 to section 3 of this act, when dispatching law enforcement, fire fighting,
115 medical, ambulance or other emergency services to a residential
116 address, for the purposes of (1) determining whether a child or adult
117 with autism spectrum disorder, a cognitive impairment or nonverbal
118 learning disorder resides at such address, and (2) communicating
119 information concerning any such child or adult to any such responding
120 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.*

APP *Joint Favorable*