

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 222—COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 2, 2009

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Makes an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services to create the Nevada Autism Task Force and to provide funding for certain autism programs and services. (BDR S-990)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to financial administration; creating the Nevada Autism Task Force; making an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for certain programs for the study and treatment of autism; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 In 2007, the Nevada Legislature created the Nevada Autism Task Force to
2 study autism and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature about
3 opportunities for improvement of the delivery and coordination of autism services
4 in the State. In addition, the Legislature made an appropriation to the Department of
5 Health and Human Services to provide grants to parents and guardians of children
6 with autism. The Task Force was required to complete its work by not later than
7 August 1, 2008. (Chapter 348, Statutes of Nevada 2007, p. 1674) **Section 1** of this
8 bill recreates the Task Force to conduct the same review during the upcoming
9 biennium. The Task Force will consist of 4 Legislators and 10 Governor-appointed
10 non-Legislators who will serve without compensation. **Section 2** of this bill makes
11 an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Department to pay certain expenses related to
12 the Task Force and to assist parents and guardians in paying the cost for the
13 treatment of children with autism. The Department is required to submit a plan
14 setting forth the manner in which the money so appropriated will be expended for
15 approval by the Interim Finance Committee.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** 1. The Nevada Autism Task Force is hereby
2 created to study and make recommendations to the Governor and
3 the Legislature regarding the growing incidence of autism and ways
4 to improve the delivery and coordination of autism services in the
5 State.

6 2. The Task Force shall consist of 14 members who are
7 appointed as follows:

8 (a) One member of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader
9 of the Senate;

10 (b) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader
11 of the Senate;

12 (c) One member of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of
13 the Assembly;

14 (d) One member of the Assembly appointed by the Minority
15 Leader of the Assembly; and

16 (e) Ten members appointed by the Governor, who must include:

17 (1) Three parents of children with autism;

18 (2) Four representatives of the Autism Coalition of Nevada;

19 (3) The Director of the Department of Health and Human
20 Services or his designee;

21 (4) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee;
22 and

23 (5) An expert in the field of early intervention services.

24 ➔ The terms of the members appointed pursuant to this subsection
25 begin on August 1, 2009, and expire on June 30, 2011.

26 3. A vacancy occurring in the membership of the Task Force
27 must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same
28 manner as the original appointment.

29 4. The Governor shall designate a Chairman and Vice
30 Chairman for the Task Force from among the 14 members
31 appointed.

32 5. The Task Force shall:

33 (a) Hold not more than six open meetings each year where
34 parents, educators and experts in the field, among others, can
35 present testimony and information to the Task Force;

36 (b) Review the available literature and consult with experts to
37 gain an understanding of the causes of the disorder and its incidence
38 in Nevada;

39 (c) Assess the availability of services currently provided for
40 early screening, diagnosis and treatment of the disorder;

41 (d) Review the effectiveness of programs and services currently
42 provided to persons with autism and their families; and



1 (e) Review other issues and concerns that the Task Force
2 believes may help in arriving at sound policy recommendations.

3 6. The Task Force shall complete its review and submit its
4 findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the Director
5 of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the appropriate
6 legislative committees on or before August 1, 2010.

7 7. The Director of the Department of Health and Human
8 Services shall provide the personnel, facilities, equipment and
9 supplies required by the Task Force to carry out the provisions of
10 this section. The Director may seek additional staff assistance from
11 the Department of Education and the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

12 8. The members of the Task Force serve without
13 compensation. While engaged in the business of the Task Force,
14 each member is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel
15 expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

16 **Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
17 General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services the
18 sum of \$2,000,000 to:

19 (a) Provide for expenses of the Nevada Autism Task Force
20 created pursuant to section 1 of this act, including, without
21 limitation, travel and meeting costs;

22 (b) Assist parents and legal guardians in paying the costs for the
23 treatment of children with autism; and

24 (c) Provide for reasonable administrative expenses incurred by
25 the Department in carrying out the provisions of this section.

26 ➤ Expenditures made pursuant to this subsection must not exceed
27 the amount appropriated pursuant to this subsection.

28 2. The Department of Health and Human Services shall, as
29 soon as practicable, develop a plan for establishing the eligibility
30 requirements for receiving assistance with paying the costs for the
31 treatment of children with autism pursuant to this section and for
32 expending the money appropriated pursuant to subsection 1. The
33 Department must submit to the Interim Finance Committee the plan
34 required pursuant to this subsection and the Interim Finance
35 Committee must approve the plan before expending any of the
36 money appropriated pursuant to subsection 1.

37 **Sec. 3.** Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
38 section 2 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after
39 June 30, 2011, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or
40 any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or
41 otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the
42 appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose
43 after September 16, 2011, by either the entity to which the money
44 was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently



- 1 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
- 2 Fund on or before September 16, 2011.
- 3 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

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