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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 315—ASSEMBLYMEN WOODBURY, SHERWOOD, HARDY, HAMMOND, SMITH; CARLTON, CARRILLO, CONKLIN, DALY, ELLISON, FLORES, GRADY, HAMBRICK, HORNE, KIRKPATRICK, LIVERMORE, MASTROLUCA, MCARTHUR, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL AND STEWART

MARCH 18, 2011

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JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS LESLIE, RHOADS, PARKS, HARDY, SCHNEIDER; BREEDEN, GUSTAVSON, HORSFORD, KIECKHEFER, KIHUEN, MANENDO AND SETTELMAYER

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Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Establishes the Autism Treatment Assistance Program. (BDR 38-986)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

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AN ACT relating to autism; establishing the Autism Treatment Assistance Program within the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services as the primary autism program within the Department; requiring certain state agencies that provide services to persons with autism to refer and coordinate services with the Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

- 1 The Department of Health and Human Services provides various programs for
- 2 persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, mental health services, early
- 3 intervention services and services for persons who are disabled. (NRS 232.300)
- 4 **Section 1** of this bill establishes the Autism Treatment Assistance Program
- 5 within the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and
- 6 Human Services to serve as the primary autism program within the Department and
- 7 to coordinate the provision of treatment to persons with autism through the age of



\* A B 3 1 5 \*

8 19 years. **Section 1** also requires the Program to develop a plan of treatment for  
9 each person with autism who participates in the Program.  
10 **Sections 2-5** of this bill require the Division of Mental Health and  
11 Developmental Services of the Department and the Health Division of the  
12 Department to refer a client with autism to the Program and to coordinate in the  
13 development of a plan of treatment for the client.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 427A of NRS is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto a new section to read as follows:  
3 *1. There is hereby established the Autism Treatment*  
4 *Assistance Program within the Division to serve as the primary*  
5 *autism program within the Department and to provide and*  
6 *coordinate the provision of services to persons with autism*  
7 *through the age of 19 years.*  
8 *2. The Autism Treatment Assistance Program shall:*  
9 *(a) Prescribe an application process for parents and guardians*  
10 *of persons with autism to participate in the Program.*  
11 *(b) Provide for the development of a plan of treatment for*  
12 *persons who participate in the Program.*  
13 *(c) Promote the use of evidence-based treatments which are*  
14 *cost effective and have been proven to improve treatment of autism*  
15 *spectrum disorders.*  
16 *(d) Educate parents and guardians of persons with autism on*  
17 *autism spectrum disorders and the assistance that may be provided*  
18 *by the parent or guardian to improve treatment outcomes.*  
19 *(e) Establish and use a system for assessing persons with*  
20 *autism to determine a baseline to measure the progress of and*  
21 *prepare a plan for the treatment of the person.*  
22 *(f) Assist parents and guardians of persons with autism in*  
23 *obtaining public services that are available for the treatment of*  
24 *autism spectrum disorders.*  
25 *3. A plan developed for a person who participates in the*  
26 *Program pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 must:*  
27 *(a) Identify the specific behaviors of the person to be addressed*  
28 *and the expected outcomes.*  
29 *(b) Include, without limitation, preparations for transitioning*  
30 *the person from one provider of treatment to another or from one*  
31 *public program to another, as the needs of the person require*  
32 *through the age of 19 years.*  
33 *(c) Be revised to address any change in the needs of the*  
34 *person.*



1     **4. The policies of the Autism Treatment Assistance Program**  
2 **and any services provided by the Program must be developed in**  
3 **cooperation with and be approved by the Nevada Autism Task**  
4 **Force created by section 40 of chapter 348, Statutes of Nevada**  
5 **2007, or its successor organization.**

6     **5. As used in this section, “autism spectrum disorders” means**  
7 **a neurobiological medical condition including, without limitation,**  
8 **autistic disorder, Asperger’s Disorder and Pervasive**  
9 **Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified.**

10    **Sec. 2.** Chapter 433 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
11 thereto a new section to read as follows:

12     **For a client with autism, the Division shall refer the client to**  
13 **the Autism Treatment Assistance Program established by section 1**  
14 **of this act if the age of the client makes him or her eligible for**  
15 **participation in the Program and coordinate with the Program to**  
16 **develop a plan of treatment for the client pursuant to that section.**

17    **Sec. 3.** Chapter 442 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
18 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 4 and 5 of this act.

19    **Sec. 4. As used in this section and NRS 442.750 and section**  
20 **5 of this act, “early intervention services” has the meaning**  
21 **ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. § 1432.**

22    **Sec. 5. For an infant or toddler with a disability who has**  
23 **autism and is eligible for early intervention services, the Health**  
24 **Division shall refer the infant or toddler to the Autism Treatment**  
25 **Assistance Program established by section 1 of this act and**  
26 **coordinate with the Program to develop a plan of treatment for the**  
27 **infant or toddler pursuant to that section.**

28    **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

