

30:6D-62.3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2007 **CHAPTER:** 169
NJSA: 30:6D-62.3 (Establishes Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative)
BILL NO: A2291 (Substituted for S690)

SPONSOR(S): Voss and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 6, 2006

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Health and Senior Services
SENATE: Health and Human Services and Senior Citizens
Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 22, 2006
SENATE: June 18, 2007

DATE OF APPROVAL: September 12, 2007

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (First reprint enacted)

A2291

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **[ASSEMBLY:](#)** [Yes](#)

SENATE: Yes [Health](#)
[2-26-07](#)
[Budget](#)
[5-14-07](#)

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S690

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes [Health](#)
[2-26-07](#)
[Budget](#)
[5-14-07](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

"Gov. Corzine signs seven autism bills into law," Asbury Park Press, 9-13-07, p.A7

"New laws aim at fighting autism, improving services," Home News Tribune, 9-13-07, p.____

"Corzine OKs laws aimed at autism," Courier-Post, 9-13-07, p.____

"Corzine signs bills to bolster autism fight," The Star-Ledger, 9-13-07, p.22

"New Jersey gives \$4M boost to autism research," The Record, 9-13-07, p.A01

"New Jersey targets nation's highest autism rate," Burlington County Times, p.____

"State probes needs of autistic adults," Courier News, 9-13-07. p.____

§§1, 2
C.30:6D-62.3
& 30:6D-62.4
§§3, 4
Note to §§1, 2

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 169, *approved September 12, 2007*
Assembly, No. 2291 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

- 6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- 8 a. Asperger's Syndrome is a Pervasive Developmental Disorder
 - 9 often characterized by autistic-like behaviors and marked by
 - 10 deficiencies in social and communication skills;
 - 11 b. Children with Asperger's Syndrome tend to be self-absorbed,
 - 12 have difficulty making friends, are often preoccupied with their
 - 13 own interests and easily become the victims of teasing or bullying;
 - 14 c. The best studies conducted to date indicate that Asperger's
 - 15 Syndrome is five to six times more common than classic autism;
 - 16 d. Those with the disorder are often misdiagnosed with other
 - 17 neurological disorders such as Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity
 - 18 Disorders or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder;
 - 19 e. Although those with Asperger's Syndrome have a better
 - 20 prognosis than those with other Pervasive Developmental
 - 21 Disorders, people with Asperger's Syndrome often continue to
 - 22 demonstrate difficulties in social interactions well into their adult
 - 23 lives and face an increased risk of developing psychosis, depression
 - 24 and anxiety;
 - 25 f. Persons with Asperger's Syndrome who are diagnosed and
 - 26 treated early have an increased chance of living independently and
 - 27 leading healthy, productive lives;
 - 28 g. Because individuals evidencing this syndrome may have
 - 29 normal to superior intelligence, and do not always evidence
 - 30 significant functional impairments across a range of life skills, they
 - 31 may not be eligible for services from the Division of Developmental
 - 32 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services;
 - 33 h. The range of support needs for persons with Asperger's
 - 34 Syndrome typically includes: social skills training; social supports,
 - 35 including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric
 - 36 'and psychological' services for the treatment of Obsessive
 - 37 Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders; and
 - 38 i. The public policy of this State should seek to provide a vehicle
 - 39 to address the needs of those who suffer from Asperger's Syndrome

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted June 12, 2006.

1 through the establishment of a demonstration program that provides
2 vocational, educational and social training services to individuals
3 with this disorder.

4

5 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
6 Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human
7 Services.

8 a. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide vocational,
9 educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's
10 Syndrome, through community-based service sites, which offer
11 these individuals appropriate support, guidance and education to
12 enable them to: further their education, achieve gainful
13 employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly
14 competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.

15 b. The commissioner shall contract with one or more entities to
16 make services available Statewide under the initiative ¹["within the
17 limits of resources available for the purposes of the initiative"]¹.

18 c. The initiative shall provide services, through an individualized
19 approach to instruction and support for persons with Asperger's
20 Syndrome, which address a comprehensive range of support needs
21 for these individuals, including, at a minimum: social skills
22 training; social supports, including supported employment; housing
23 supports; and psychiatric ¹and psychological¹ services for the
24 treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological
25 disorders.

26 d. The commissioner shall report to the Governor ¹,¹ and ¹to¹ the
27 Legislature ¹pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
28 19.1),¹ on the initiative no later than two years after the date that it
29 commences operations, and shall include in that report a detailed
30 summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness,
31 and any recommendations that the commissioner desires to make
32 for the extension, expansion, modification or termination of the
33 initiative.

34

35 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
36 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
37 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
38 this act.

39

40 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,
41 except that the Commissioner of Human Services may take such
42 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
43 for the implementation of the act.

44

45

46

47 Establishes Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2291

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2006)

1 AN ACT establishing the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Asperger's Syndrome is a Pervasive Developmental Disorder
9 often characterized by autistic-like behaviors and marked by
10 deficiencies in social and communication skills;

11 b. Children with Asperger's Syndrome tend to be self-absorbed,
12 have difficulty making friends, are often preoccupied with their
13 own interests and easily become the victims of teasing or bullying;

14 c. The best studies conducted to date indicate that Asperger's
15 Syndrome is five to six times more common than classic autism;

16 d. Those with the disorder are often misdiagnosed with other
17 neurological disorders such as Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity
18 Disorders or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder;

19 e. Although those with Asperger's Syndrome have a better
20 prognosis than those with other Pervasive Developmental
21 Disorders, people with Asperger's Syndrome often continue to
22 demonstrate difficulties in social interactions well into their adult
23 lives and face an increased risk of developing psychosis, depression
24 and anxiety;

25 f. Persons with Asperger's Syndrome who are diagnosed and
26 treated early have an increased chance of living independently and
27 leading healthy, productive lives;

28 g. Because individuals evidencing this syndrome may have
29 normal to superior intelligence, and do not always evidence
30 significant functional impairments across a range of life skills, they
31 may not be eligible for services from the Division of Developmental
32 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services;

33 h. The range of support needs for persons with Asperger's
34 Syndrome typically includes: social skills training; social supports,
35 including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric
36 services for the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and
37 other neurological disorders; and

38 i. The public policy of this State should seek to provide a
39 vehicle to address the needs of those who suffer from Asperger's
40 Syndrome through the establishment of a demonstration program
41 that provides vocational, educational and social training services to
42 individuals with this disorder.

43

44 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
45 Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human
46 Services.

47 a. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide vocational,
48 educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's

1 Syndrome, through community-based service sites, which offer
2 these individuals appropriate support, guidance and education to
3 enable them to: further their education, achieve gainful
4 employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly
5 competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.

6 b. The commissioner shall contract with one or more entities to
7 make services available Statewide under the initiative within the
8 limits of resources available for the purposes of the initiative.

9 c. The initiative shall provide services, through an
10 individualized approach to instruction and support for persons with
11 Asperger's Syndrome, which address a comprehensive range of
12 support needs for these individuals, including, at a minimum: social
13 skills training; social supports, including supported employment;
14 housing supports; and psychiatric services for the treatment of
15 Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders.

16 d. The commissioner shall report to the Governor and the
17 Legislature on the initiative no later than two years after the date
18 that it commences operations, and shall include in that report a
19 detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-
20 effectiveness, and any recommendations that the commissioner
21 desires to make for the extension, expansion, modification or
22 termination of the initiative.

23

24 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
25 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
26 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
27 this act.

28

29 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,
30 except that the Commissioner of Human Services may take such
31 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
32 for the implementation of the act.

33

34

35

STATEMENT

36

37 This bill establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in
38 the Department of Human Services.

39 Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- 40 • The purpose of the initiative is to provide vocational,
41 educational and social training services to persons with
42 Asperger's Syndrome, through community-based service sites,
43 which offer these individuals appropriate support, guidance and
44 education to enable them to: further their education, achieve
45 gainful employment, develop meaningful friendships, and
46 become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling
47 lives.
- 48 • The Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with one or

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- 1 more entities to make services available Statewide under the
2 initiative within the limits of resources available for the
3 purposes of the initiative.
- 4 • The initiative is to provide services, through an individualized
5 approach to instruction and support for persons with Asperger's
6 Syndrome, which address a comprehensive range of support
7 needs for these individuals, including, at a minimum: social
8 skills training; social supports, including supported
9 employment; housing supports; and psychiatric services for the
10 treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other
11 neurological disorders.
 - 12 • The Commissioner of Human Services is to report to the
13 Governor and the Legislature on the pilot initiative no later than
14 two years after the date that it commences operations, and to
15 include in that report a detailed summary of its activities, an
16 assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and any recommendations
17 that the commissioner desires to make for the extension,
18 expansion, modification or termination of the pilot initiative.
 - 19 • The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment, but
20 authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to take
21 anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its
22 implementation.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2291

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2006

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2291.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human Services.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The purpose of the initiative is to provide vocational, educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's Syndrome, through community-based service sites, which offer these individuals appropriate support, guidance and education to enable them to: further their education, achieve gainful employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.
- The Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with one or more entities to make services available Statewide under the initiative.
- The initiative is to provide services, through an individualized approach to instruction and support for persons with Asperger's Syndrome, which address a comprehensive range of support needs for these individuals, including, at a minimum: social skills training; social supports, including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric and psychological services for the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders.
- The Commissioner of Human Services is to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the pilot initiative no later than two years after the date that it commences operations, and to include in that report a detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and any recommendations that the commissioner desires to make for the extension, expansion, modification or termination of the pilot initiative.
- The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment, but authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to take anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its implementation.

As reported by the committee, this bill is similar to Assembly Bill No. 3729 (1R) of 2005 (Weinberg/Voss), which the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee reported during the prior session.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

- make a technical change to reference P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), which concerns the submission of reports to the Legislature;
- impose stronger requirements for the commissioner to contract with entities to make services available under the initiative; and
- require that the initiative also provide psychological services for the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders.

SENATE HEALTH HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2291

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2007

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2291 (1R).

This bill establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human Services.

- The purpose of the initiative is to provide vocational, educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's Syndrome through community-based service sites which offer appropriate support, guidance and education that will enable these individuals further their education, achieve gainful employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.
- The Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with one or more entities to make services available Statewide under the initiative.
- The initiative is to provide services through an individualized approach to instruction and support to address a comprehensive range of support needs, including: social skills training; social supports, including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric and psychological services to treat Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders.
- The Commissioner of Human Services is to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the initiative no later than two years after the date that it commences operations, and provide a detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and recommend whether to extend, expand, modify or terminate of the initiative.
- The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment.

The bill does not appropriate funds for the initiative; however, it is noted that the FY07 annual appropriations act provided funds for an Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Program, and to date the funds have not been expended.

This bill passed the Assembly on June 22, 2006. As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 690 (Weinberg), as amended by the committee on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2291

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2007

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2291 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 2291 (1R) establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human Services. Specifically, the bill provides as follows: (1) the initiative is to provide vocational, educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's Syndrome through community-based service sites which offer appropriate support, guidance and education that will enable these individuals to further their education, achieve gainful employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives; (2) the Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with one or more entities to make services available Statewide under the initiative; (3) the initiative is to provide services through an individualized approach to instruction and support to address a comprehensive range of support needs, including: social skills training; social supports, including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric and psychological services to treat Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders; and (4) the Commissioner is to report on the initiative no later than two years after it commences operations, and provide a detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and recommend whether to extend, expand, modify or terminate the initiative. The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate, No. 690 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill does not appropriate funds for the initiative; however, it is noted that the FY07 annual appropriations act contains a \$300,000 General Fund appropriation for a grant in the Department of Human Services for an Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Program. To date the funds have not been expended. Proposed budget language would allow any unexpended FY07 balances to be appropriated in FY08.

SENATE, No. 690

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator ELLEN KARCHER

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2007)

1 AN ACT establishing the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Asperger's Syndrome is a Pervasive Developmental Disorder
9 often characterized by autistic-like behaviors and marked by
10 deficiencies in social and communication skills;

11 b. Children with Asperger's Syndrome tend to be self-absorbed,
12 have difficulty making friends, are often preoccupied with their
13 own interests and easily become the victims of teasing or bullying;

14 c. The best studies conducted to date indicate that Asperger's
15 Syndrome is five to six times more common than classic autism;

16 d. Those with the disorder are often misdiagnosed with other
17 neurological disorders such as Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity
18 Disorders or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder;

19 e. Although those with Asperger's Syndrome have a better
20 prognosis than those with other Pervasive Developmental
21 Disorders, people with Asperger's Syndrome often continue to
22 demonstrate difficulties in social interactions well into their adult
23 lives and face an increased risk of developing psychosis, depression
24 and anxiety;

25 f. Persons with Asperger's Syndrome who are diagnosed and
26 treated early have an increased chance of living independently and
27 leading healthy, productive lives;

28 g. Because individuals evidencing this syndrome may have
29 normal to superior intelligence, and do not always evidence
30 significant functional impairments across a range of life skills, they
31 may not be eligible for services from the Division of Developmental
32 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services;

33 h. The range of support needs for persons with Asperger's
34 Syndrome typically includes: social skills training; social supports,
35 including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric
36 services for the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and
37 other neurological disorders; and

38 i. The public policy of this State should seek to provide a
39 vehicle to address the needs of those who suffer from Asperger's
40 Syndrome through the establishment of a demonstration program
41 that provides vocational, educational and social training services to
42 individuals with this disorder.

43

44 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
45 Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human
46 Services.

47 a. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide vocational,
48 educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's

1 Syndrome, through community-based service sites, which offer
2 these individuals appropriate support, guidance and education to
3 enable them to: further their education, achieve gainful
4 employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly
5 competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.

6 b. The commissioner shall contract with one or more entities to
7 make services available Statewide under the initiative within the
8 limits of resources available for the purposes of the initiative.

9 c. The initiative shall provide services, through an
10 individualized approach to instruction and support for persons with
11 Asperger's Syndrome, which address a comprehensive range of
12 support needs for these individuals, including, at a minimum:
13 social skills training; social supports, including supported
14 employment; housing supports; and psychiatric services for the
15 treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological
16 disorders.

17 d. The commissioner shall report to the Governor and the
18 Legislature on the initiative no later than two years after the date
19 that it commences operations, and shall include in that report a
20 detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-
21 effectiveness, and any recommendations that the commissioner
22 desires to make for the extension, expansion, modification or
23 termination of the initiative.

24

25 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
26 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
27 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
28 this act.

29

30 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,
31 except that the Commissioner of Human Services may take such
32 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
33 for the implementation of the act.

34

35

36

STATEMENT

37

38 This bill establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in
39 the Department of Human Services.

40 Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- 41 • The purpose of the initiative is to provide vocational,
42 educational and social training services to persons with
43 Asperger's Syndrome, through community-based service
44 sites, which offer these individuals appropriate support,
45 guidance and education to enable them to: further their
46 education, achieve gainful employment, develop meaningful
47 friendships, and become broadly competent adults who are
48 able to lead fulfilling lives.

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- 1 • The Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with
2 one or more entities to make services available Statewide
3 under the initiative within the limits of resources available
4 for the purposes of the initiative.
- 5 • The initiative is to provide services, through an
6 individualized approach to instruction and support for
7 persons with Asperger's Syndrome, which address a
8 comprehensive range of support needs for these individuals,
9 including, at a minimum: social skills training; social
10 supports, including supported employment; housing
11 supports; and psychiatric services for the treatment of
12 Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological
13 disorders.
- 14 • The Commissioner of Human Services is to report to the
15 Governor and the Legislature on the pilot initiative no later
16 than two years after the date that it commences operations,
17 and to include in that report a detailed summary of its
18 activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and any
19 recommendations that the commissioner desires to make for
20 the extension, expansion, modification or termination of the
21 pilot initiative.
- 22 • The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment, but
23 authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to take
24 anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary
25 for its implementation.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 690

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2007

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with amendments Senate Bill No. 690.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human Services.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The purpose of the initiative is to provide vocational, educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's Syndrome through community-based service sites which offer appropriate support, guidance and education that will enable these individuals to further their education, achieve gainful employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.
- The Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with one or more entities to make services available Statewide under the initiative.
- The initiative is to provide services through an individualized approach to instruction and support to address a comprehensive range of support needs, including: social skills training; social supports, including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric and psychological services to treat Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders.
- The Commissioner of Human Services is to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the initiative no later than two years after the date that it commences operations, and provide a detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and recommend whether to extend, expand, modify or terminate of the initiative.
- The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment.

The bill does not appropriate funds for the initiative; however, it is noted that the FY07 annual appropriations act provided funds for an

Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Program, and to date the funds have not been expended.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- delete language limiting contracts with entities to make services available Statewide under the initiative “within the limits of resources available for the purposes of the initiative”;
- require that the initiative provide psychological services for the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders; and
- make a technical change to reference the statute regarding the submission of reports to the Legislature.

The committee amendments make this bill identical to Assembly Bill No. 2291(1R) (Voss/Gordon/Munoz), which passed the Assembly on June 22, 2006.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2006-2007 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 690

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2007

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 690 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 690 (1R) establishes the Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human Services. Specifically, the bill provides as follows: (1) the initiative is to provide vocational, educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's Syndrome through community-based service sites which offer appropriate support, guidance and education that will enable these individuals to further their education, achieve gainful employment, develop meaningful friendships, and become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives; (2) the Commissioner of Human Services is to contract with one or more entities to make services available Statewide under the initiative; (3) the initiative is to provide services through an individualized approach to instruction and support to address a comprehensive range of support needs, including: social skills training; social supports, including supported employment; housing supports; and psychiatric and psychological services to treat Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other neurological disorders; and (4) the Commissioner is to report on the initiative no later than two years after it commences operations, and provide a detailed summary of its activities, an assessment of its cost-effectiveness, and recommend whether to extend, expand, modify or terminate the initiative. The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly, No. 2291 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill does not appropriate funds for the initiative; however, it is noted that the FY07 annual appropriations act contains a \$300,000 General Fund appropriation for a grant in the Department of Human Services for an Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Program. To date the funds have not been expended. Proposed budget language would allow any unexpended FY07 balances to be appropriated in FY08.

Title

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Sep-12-07 Governor Corzine Signs Bills On Autism

NEWS RELEASE

Governor Jon S. Corzine
September 12, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Press Office
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GOVERNOR CORZINE SIGNS BILLS ON AUTISM

West Windsor - Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed a package of seven bills relating to autism spectrum disorders. These disorders are often characterized by substantial impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests.

“Today, we are enhancing New Jersey’s pioneer status in the fight against autism spectrum disorders by bolstering our arsenal of programs, training, education, and research,” said Governor Jon S. Corzine. “This is an opportunity for New Jersey to become a model for other states in researching the nature of autism and its causes as well as in treating those with these disorders.

“More importantly, through these initiatives, we will be enabling those impacted by autism spectrum disorders to function as independent, productive, and empowered individuals.”

The rate and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders in New Jersey is disproportionately high. While experts estimate the national rate has increased to about 1 in 150 children, the incidence in New Jersey is approximately 1 in 95.

“With new studies showing New Jersey with the highest reported autism rates in the country, it is critically important that the state do all it can to help the growing number of individuals and families confronting autism spectrum

disorders,” said Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. (D-Camden) who championed the legislative effort to improve the detection, treatment and awareness of autism in New Jersey.

“For families whose loved ones are locked in the grasp of this disorder, today’s action sends a reassuring message of hope that New Jersey is working to do more to improve its safety net of services and care,” Roberts said. “These measures will enable New Jersey to address the startling number of children being diagnosed with autism and they will allow us to extend a helping hand to countless autistic young adults and others who have aged out of the state’s special education system.”

“A diagnosis of autism or developmental disability presents real challenges for parents and caregivers,” said Senator Ellen Karcher (D-Mercer/Monmouth). “While the medical community seeks to find answers to the causes of autism and developmental disability, states have an obligation to promote programs which help those living with the disability. These new lifesaving laws will help families deal with the hardships of caring for individuals with autism.”

“According to federal statistics, New Jersey has the highest number of autism cases in the nation,” said Senator Loretta Weinberg, (D-Bergen). “We are still learning about the autism spectrum disorders, but while we are learning, we must be able to provide much-needed assistance to families living with autism. As the number of residents living with autism increases, we must have the resources in place to provide them with support programs and work to find ways to decrease the incidence of autism in New Jersey.”

The Governor signed A4055/S2558, providing for teacher training in awareness and instruction methods for students with autism and other developmental disabilities for candidates for teaching certificates, current teachers and paraprofessionals. The Commissioner of Education will develop recommendations to address a variety of issues including the characteristics of students with autism and other developmental disabilities; curriculum planning, assistive technology; and inclusive educational practices.

“In a state with high autism rates, it’s imperative that educators have the tools to recognize autism and help children with this confounding disorder,” said Assemblyman Jim Whelan (D-Atlantic), a veteran teacher with a master’s in education. “Teachers are an untapped resource in this state’s growing efforts to help children and adults with autism.”

Other primary bill sponsors in the Assembly were: Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (District 37) and Assemblywoman Joan Voss (District 38). Primary Senate sponsors were: Senator Loretta Weinberg (District 37) and Senator Ellen Karcher (District 12).

Governor Corzine also signed A4056/S2568, requiring the Early Intervention Program in the Department of Health and Senior Services to address the specific needs of children with autism spectrum disorders and their families. These activities involve developing guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers for autism, ensuring the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers suspected of being on the autism spectrum to the Early Intervention Program and collecting data on statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems.

“By establishing comprehensive guidelines for New Jersey pediatricians to use in the evaluation and referral of autistic children, we can ensure appropriate treatment for infants and toddlers as soon as possible,” said Assemblyman Herb Conaway, M.D. (D-Burlington/Camden). “For autistic children, early detection is the key to ensuring proper care.”

Other primary bill sponsors in the Assembly were: Assemblyman Michael Panter (District 12); Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (District 37) and Assemblyman Lou Greenwald (District 6). Primary Senate sponsors were: Senator Loretta Weinberg (District 37) and Senator Ellen Karcher (District 12)

Governor Corzine signed A4057/S2559, establishing the New Jersey Adults with Autism Task Force in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The purpose of the task force is to study, evaluate, and develop recommendations relating to specific actionable measures to support and meet the needs of adults with autism. These include job training and placement, housing, and long-term care.

“New Jersey faces new challenges created by the rise in adults classified with autism including the need for job training

and placement, housing and long-term care,” said Assemblyman Gary Schaer (D-Passaic/Bergen/Essex). “It’s critical that we strengthen the community of support for adults living with this lifelong disease.”

Other primary Assembly sponsors were: Assemblywoman Joan Voss (District 38) and Assemblyman John McKeon (District 27). Primary sponsors in the Senate were: Senator Loretta Weinberg (District 37) and Senator Ellen Karcher (District 12).

In addition, Governor Corzine signed S/698A4054, which makes changes to the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, renaming it the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism.

“There are going to be new challenges created by a growing number of adults who are being classified with autism,” said Assemblywoman Joan Voss (D-Bergen). “The numbers clearly indicate that we need to step up our efforts to help the thousands of families in this state that have loved ones with autism disorders.”

Other primary sponsors in the Assembly were: Assemblyman Gary Schaer (District 36); and Assemblyman John McKeon (District 27). Primary sponsors in the Senate were: Senator Loretta Weinberg (District 37) and Senator Joe Vitale (District 19).

Governor Corzine signed A4059/S2569, extending funding for autism medical research and treatment. The bill eliminates the five-year “sunset” for the \$1 surcharge established under P.L.2003, c.144 for each motor vehicle fine and penalty imposed by the court, which is deposited in the “Autism Medical Research and Treatment Fund.” The fund provides the financial support funding for the grant and contract awards of the Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism.

“More than ever, New Jersey needs to muster more attention and resources to help families, school districts, communities, and health care providers deal with the challenge of rising autism diagnosis rates,” said Assemblyman David Mayer (D-Gloucester/Camden).

Other primary Assembly sponsors were: Assemblywoman Joan Voss (District 38); Assemblyman Jim Whelan (District 2) and Assemblyman Lou Greenwald (District 6). Primary Senate sponsors were Senator Loretta Weinberg (District 37) and Senator Joseph Coniglio (District 38).

The Governor also signed A2306/S2723 requiring the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to maintain a registry of reported autism diagnoses. The DHSS, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, will maintain an up-to-date registry to include a record of all reported cases of autism that occur in New Jersey; each reported case of autism in which the initial diagnosis is changed, lost, or considered misdiagnosed; and any other information DHSS deems relevant and appropriate to conduct thorough and complete epidemiologic surveys of autism, to enable analysis of this problem, and to plan for and provide services to children with autism and their families.

“New Jersey has the nation’s highest reported rates of autism and this presents new challenges for families, schools and our state’s health-care network,” said John Assemblyman McKeon (D-Essex). “This registry will serve as an invaluable tool for the state to monitor autism cases while ensuring that New Jersey continues to provide services to meet the needs of the state’s growing autism community.”

Other primary bill sponsors in the Assembly were Assemblyman Nelson Albano (District 1) and Assemblywoman Joan Voss (District 38). Primary sponsors in the Senate were: Senator Andrew Ciesla (District 10) and Senator Diane Allen (District 7).

Governor Corzine also signed A2291/S690, which establishes an Asperger's Syndrome Pilot Initiative in the Department of Human Services. The initiative will provide vocational, educational and social training services to persons with Asperger's Syndrome. This will be accomplished through community-based service sites which offer appropriate support; guidance and education that will enable these individuals to further their education achieve gainful employment and become broadly competent adults who are able to lead fulfilling lives.

“Asperger’s Syndrome was only recognized in the United States in 1994, 60 years after many European countries confirmed its existence,” said Assemblywoman Joan Voss (D-Bergen), whose adult son has Asperger’s. “There are so many adults and young adults who were misdiagnosed over the years because there wasn’t a correct diagnosis for what was troubling them and there were no programs to meet their needs. This pilot program will be a model to help people with Asperger's acquire the socialization skills they need so they can enjoy productive and happy lives.”

Other primary bill sponsors in the Assembly were: Assemblyman Robert Gordon (District 38) and Assemblyman Eric Munoz (District 21). Primary sponsors in the Senate were: Senator Loretta Weinberg (District 37) and Senator Ellen Karcher (District 12).

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