



**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.\_\_\_\_

IS 5/13/08

§2  
C.26:1A-  
36.7a  
§§3, 4  
Note to  
§§1, 2

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 172, *approved September 12, 2007*  
Assembly, No. 4056 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning early intervention services for infants and  
2 toddlers with autism and amending and supplementing P.L.1993,  
3 c.309.

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

7  
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 (C. 26:1A-36.7) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 2. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction  
11 with the Departments of Education and Human Services, shall  
12 establish a Statewide system of early intervention services for eligible  
13 infants and toddlers from birth to age **[two]** <sup>1</sup>**[three]** two<sup>1</sup>,  
14 inclusive, with physical, cognitive, communication, social or  
15 emotional, and adaptive developmental delays or disabilities in  
16 accordance with Part H of the "Individuals with Disabilities  
17 Education Act," Pub.L.91-230 (20 U.S.C. s.1471 et seq.).  
18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.309, s.2)

19  
20 2. (New section) The Early Intervention Program in the  
21 Department of Health and Senior Services established pursuant to  
22 section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 (C.26:1A-36.7) shall conduct activities  
23 to address the specific needs of children with autism spectrum  
24 disorders and their families. These activities shall include, but not be  
25 limited to, the following:

26 a. developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates,  
27 including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical  
28 Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks<sup>1</sup>**[**,  
29 Inc.**]**<sup>1</sup>, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the  
30 Autism Community, <sup>1</sup>**[and]**<sup>1</sup> The Autism Center of New Jersey  
31 Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New  
32 Jersey, <sup>3</sup>the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.,<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>and the New  
33 Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics,<sup>1</sup> guidelines  
34 for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers  
35 living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by  
36 health care professionals of infants and toddlers <sup>2</sup>**[at risk for autism]**

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted March 5, 2007.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted March 8, 2007.

<sup>3</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted May 21, 2007.

1 who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the  
2 autism spectrum<sup>2</sup> to the Early Intervention Program in order to  
3 provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as  
4 possible;

5 b. referring affected children who are identified as having autism  
6 or <sup>2</sup>**[being at risk for autism]** suspected of being on the autism  
7 spectrum<sup>2</sup> and their families to schools and agencies, including  
8 community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations  
9 and other programs mandated by Part C of the “Individuals with  
10 Disabilities Education Act” (20 U.S.C. s.1431 et seq.), which offer  
11 programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children  
12 with autism;

13 c. collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and  
14 intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied  
15 research, program evaluation, and policy development; and

16 d. disseminating information on the medical care of individuals  
17 with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

18

19 3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall,  
20 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
21 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
22 purposes of this act.

23

24 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following  
25 enactment, but the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services may  
26 take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be  
27 necessary for implementation of the act.

28

29

30 \_\_\_\_\_

31

32 Concerns Early Intervention Program services for children with  
33 autism.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4056**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**212th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 26, 2007

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman MICHAEL J. PANTER**

**District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)**

**Assemblyman JOSEPH J. ROBERTS, JR.**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

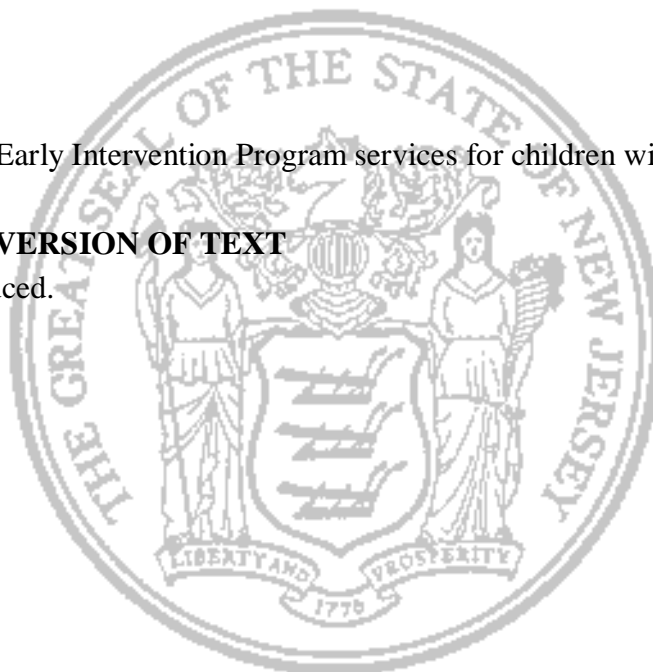
**Assemblymen Schaer, Whelan, Assemblywomen Voss, Greenstein,  
Assemblymen Wolfe, Holzappel, McKeon, Chivukula, Epps,  
Assemblywomen Quigley, Stender, Assemblymen Gordon, Manzo, Munoz  
and Scalera**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns Early Intervention Program services for children with autism.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/6/2007)**

1 AN ACT concerning early intervention services for infants and  
2 toddlers with autism and amending and supplementing P.L.1993,  
3 c.309.

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

7  
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 (C. 26:1A-36.7) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 2. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction  
11 with the Departments of Education and Human Services, shall  
12 establish a Statewide system of early intervention services for  
13 eligible infants and toddlers from birth to age **[two]** three,  
14 inclusive, with physical, cognitive, communication, social or  
15 emotional, and adaptive developmental delays or disabilities in  
16 accordance with Part H of the "Individuals with Disabilities  
17 Education Act," Pub.L.91-230 (20 U.S.C. s.1471 et seq.).

18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.309, s.2)

19  
20 2. (New section) The Early Intervention Program in the  
21 Department of Health and Senior Services established pursuant to  
22 section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 (C. 26:1A-36.7) shall conduct  
23 activities to address the specific needs of children with autism  
24 spectrum disorders and their families. These activities shall  
25 include, but not be limited to, the following:

26 a. developing, in consultation with autism experts and  
27 advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for  
28 Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism  
29 Speaks, Inc., The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for  
30 the Autism Community, and The Autism Center of New Jersey  
31 Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New  
32 Jersey, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating  
33 infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the  
34 timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers  
35 at risk for autism to the Early Intervention Program in order to  
36 provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as  
37 possible;

38 b. referring affected children who are identified as having  
39 autism or being at risk for autism and their families to schools and  
40 agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based  
41 agencies, and organizations and other programs mandated by Part C  
42 of the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (20 U.S.C.  
43 s.1431 et seq.), which offer programs specifically designed to meet  
44 the unique needs of children with autism;

**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.

1 c. collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and  
2 intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied  
3 research, program evaluation, and policy development; and

4 d. disseminating information on the medical care of individuals  
5 with autism to health care professionals and the general public.  
6

7 3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall,  
8 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
9 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
10 purposes of this act.  
11

12 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following  
13 enactment, but the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services  
14 may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall  
15 be necessary for implementation of the act.  
16  
17

18 STATEMENT  
19

20 This bill requires the Early Intervention Program in the  
21 Department of Health and Senior Services to address the specific  
22 needs of children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

23 These activities are to include, but need not be limited to, the  
24 following:

- 25 • developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates,  
26 including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for  
27 Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism  
28 Speaks, Inc., The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services  
29 for the Autism Community, and The Autism Center of New  
30 Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and  
31 Dentistry of New Jersey, guidelines for health care professionals  
32 to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for  
33 autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care  
34 professionals of infants and toddlers at risk for autism to the  
35 Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate  
36 services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- 37 • referring children who are identified as having autism or being at  
38 risk for autism and their families to schools and agencies,  
39 including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and  
40 organizations and other programs which offer programs  
41 specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with  
42 autism;
- 43 • collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and  
44 intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied  
45 research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- 46 • disseminating information on the medical care of individuals  
47 with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

**A4056 CONAWAY, PANTER**

4

1       The bill takes effect on the 180th day following enactment, but  
2       authorizes the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to take  
3       anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its  
4       implementation.



# ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 4056**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 5, 2007

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with amendments Assembly Bill No. 4056.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires 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 are to include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers at risk for autism to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- referring children who are identified as having autism or being at risk for autism and their families to schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations and other programs which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with autism;
- collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- disseminating information on the medical care of individuals with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

The bill takes effect on the 180th day following enactment, but authorizes the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to take

anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its implementation.

As reported by the committee, this bill is similar to Senate Bill No. 2568 (Weinberg/Karcher), which is currently pending in the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

-- clarify that the Early Intervention Program provides services for eligible infants and toddlers from birth to age two, inclusive;

-- add the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to the list of entities to be consulted by the Early Intervention Program in the development of guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers for autism; and

-- correct a reference to the organization, Autism Speaks.

# ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4056**

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 12, 2007

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4056 (2R).

The bill requires 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 are to include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers suspected of being on the autism spectrum to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- referring children who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum and their families to schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations and other programs which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with autism;
- collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- disseminating information on the medical care of individuals with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

The bill takes effect on the 180th day following enactment, but authorizes the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to take anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill was not yet certified for a fiscal note, nor has the department indicated any resulting costs at this time.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4056**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 21, 2007

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4056 (1R).

As amended by the committee, the bill requires 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 are to include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc., and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- referring children who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum and their families to schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations and other programs which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with autism;

- collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- disseminating information on the medical care of individuals with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

The bill takes effect on the 180th day following enactment, but authorizes the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to take anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its implementation.

The committee amended the bill to add the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc. to the list of entities to be consulted by the Early Intervention Program in the development of guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers for autism;

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2568 (SCA) (Weinberg/Karcher), which was also reported favorably by the committee on this date.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Third Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4056**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 14, 2007

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4056 (3R).

The bill requires 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 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc., and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers suspected of being on the autism spectrum to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- Referring children who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum and their families to schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations and other programs which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with autism;
- Collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- Disseminating information on the medical care of individuals with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No.2568 (1R) as also reported by the committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that there are no costs associated with the implementation of this legislation. The \$134.4 million allocated for the support of the Early Intervention Program (EIP) in the Governor's FY 2008 Recommended Budget is sufficient to implement the administrative provisions of this bill.



STATEMENT TO  
[First Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4056**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed By Assemblyman CONAWAY)

ADOPTED: MARCH 8, 2007

This amendment replaces the term “at risk for autism” with “suspected of being on the autism spectrum” in referring to certain children to whom the provisions of the bill apply.

# SENATE, No. 2568

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 26, 2007

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator ELLEN KARCHER**

**District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Coniglio, Ciesla and Madden**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns Early Intervention Program services for children with autism.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/22/2007)**

1 AN ACT concerning early intervention services for infants and  
2 toddlers with autism and amending and supplementing P.L.1993,  
3 c.309.

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

7  
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 (C. 26:1A-36.7) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 2. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction  
11 with the Departments of Education and Human Services, shall  
12 establish a Statewide system of early intervention services for  
13 eligible infants and toddlers from birth to age **[two]** three,  
14 inclusive, with physical, cognitive, communication, social or  
15 emotional, and adaptive developmental delays or disabilities in  
16 accordance with Part H of the "Individuals with Disabilities  
17 Education Act," Pub.L.91-230 (20 U.S.C.s.1471 et seq.).

18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.309, s.2)

19

20 2. (New section) The Early Intervention Program in the  
21 Department of Health and Senior Services established pursuant to  
22 section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 (C.26:1A-36.7) shall conduct activities  
23 to address the specific needs of children with autism spectrum  
24 disorders and their families. These activities shall include, but not  
25 be limited to, the following:

26 a. developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates,  
27 including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical  
28 Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, Inc.,  
29 The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism  
30 Community, and The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School  
31 at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey,  
32 guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants  
33 and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely  
34 referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers at risk  
35 for autism to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide  
36 appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as  
37 possible;

38 b. referring affected children who are identified as having  
39 autism or being at risk for autism and their families to schools and  
40 agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based  
41 agencies, and organizations and other programs mandated by Part C  
42 of the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (20  
43 U.S.C.s.1431 et seq.), which offer programs specifically designed to  
44 meet the unique needs of children with autism;

**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.

1 c. collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and  
2 intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied  
3 research, program evaluation, and policy development; and

4 d. disseminating information on the medical care of individuals  
5 with autism to health care professionals and the general public.  
6

7 3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall,  
8 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
9 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
10 purposes of this act.  
11

12 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following  
13 enactment, but the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services  
14 may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall  
15 be necessary for implementation of the act.  
16

17  
18 STATEMENT  
19

20 This bill requires the Early Intervention Program in the  
21 Department of Health and Senior Services to address the specific  
22 needs of children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

23 These activities are to include, but need not be limited to, the  
24 following:

- 25 • developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates,  
26 including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for  
27 Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism  
28 Speaks, Inc., The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services  
29 for the Autism Community, and The Autism Center of New  
30 Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and  
31 Dentistry of New Jersey, guidelines for health care professionals  
32 to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for  
33 autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care  
34 professionals of infants and toddlers at risk for autism to the  
35 Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate  
36 services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- 37 • referring children who are identified as having autism or being  
38 at risk for autism and their families to schools and agencies,  
39 including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and  
40 organizations and other programs which offer programs  
41 specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with  
42 autism;
- 43 • collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and  
44 intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied  
45 research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- 46 • disseminating information on the medical care of individuals  
47 with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

**S2568 WEINBERG, KARCHER**

4

1       The bill takes effect on the 180th day following enactment, but  
2       authorizes the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to take  
3       anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its  
4       implementation.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2568**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 21, 2007

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2568.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires 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 are to include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc., and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- referring children who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum and their families to schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations and other programs which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with autism;
- collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied research, program evaluation, and policy development; and

- disseminating information on the medical care of individuals with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

The bill takes effect on the 180th day following enactment, but authorizes the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to take anticipatory administrative action in advance as necessary for its implementation.

The committee amended the bill to:

-- clarify that the Early Intervention Program provides services for eligible infants and toddlers from birth to age two, inclusive;

-- add the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc. and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to the list of entities to be consulted by the Early Intervention Program in the development of guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers for autism;

-- replace the term "at risk for autism" with "suspected of being on the autism spectrum" in referring to certain children to whom the provisions of the bill apply; and

-- correct a reference to the organization, Autism Speaks.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4056 (SCA) (Conaway/Panter/Roberts/Vainieri/Huttle/Greenwald), which was also reported favorably by the committee on this date.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2568**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 14, 2007

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2568 (1R).

The bill requires 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 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Developing, in consultation with autism experts and advocates, including, but not limited to, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism, Autism Speaks, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc., and the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers living in the State for autism and to ensure the timely referral by health care professionals of infants and toddlers who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum to the Early Intervention Program in order to provide appropriate services to those infants and toddlers as early as possible;
- Referring children who are identified as having autism or suspected of being on the autism spectrum and their families to schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies, and organizations and other programs which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children with autism;
- Collecting data on Statewide autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems that can be used for applied research, program evaluation, and policy development; and
- Disseminating information on the medical care of individuals with autism to health care professionals and the general public.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4056 (3R) as also reported by the committee.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that there are no costs associated with the implementation of this legislation. The \$134.4 million allocated for the support of the Early Intervention Program (EIP) in the Governor's FY 2008 Recommended Budget is sufficient to implement the administrative provisions of this bill.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2568**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: JUNE 26, 2007

### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Concerns Early Intervention Program (EIP) services for children with autism.

**Type of Impact:** None.

**Agencies Affected:** Departments of Education, Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services.

#### **Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Years 1 -3</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>	No Impact - See Comments Below

- The Governor's FY 2008 recommended budget provides \$134.4 million in total funds for Early Intervention Program (EIP).

### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill No. 2568 (1R) of 2006 requires 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. This will include the development of guidelines, in conjunction with various groups and organizations specified in the legislation, to evaluate infants and toddlers for autism, referrals of such children and their families for services, collecting data, and disseminating information on the medical needs of individuals with autism to health care professionals.

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

#### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

There are no costs associated with the legislation as the \$134.4 million in funds recommended by in the FY 2008 budget should be adequate to implement the legislation's administrative requirements.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Jay A. Hershberg  
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L. 1980, c.67.

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  
609-777-2600

**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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