

26:2-189

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2008 **CHAPTER:** 80

NJSA: 26:2-189 (Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness program for certain first responders)

BILL NO: A1908 (substituted for S1217)

SPONSOR(S) Scalera and others

DATE INTRODUCED: January 24, 2008

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Health and Senior Services

SENATE: Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
 Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 23, 2008

SENATE: June 23, 2008

DATE OF APPROVAL: September 9, 2008

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

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

A1908

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes [Health 1-24-2008](#)

SENATE: Yes [Health 5-5-2008](#)
 [Budget 5-19-2008](#)

(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: Yes [2-15-2008](#)
[5-19-2008](#)

S1217

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes [Health 5-5-08](#)
 [Budget 5-19-08](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:

Yes

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes 9-9-08

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:

No

"2 new laws ease life for disabled," The Star Ledger, 9-10-08, p.28

"Corzine approves autism legislation," The Record, 9-10-08, p.A09

LAW/RWH 3/31/08

Title 26.
Chapter 2.
Part LL. (New)
Autism,
Developmental
Disabilities
Awareness for
First Responders.
§§1,2 –
C.26:2-189 &
26:2-190
§3 –
C.52:27D-25jj
§4 –
C.52:17B-71.9
§5 - Note to §§1-4

P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 80, *approved September 9, 2008*
Assembly, No. 1908 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing an autism ¹and intellectual and other
2 developmental disabilities¹ awareness program and
3 supplementing Titles 26 and 52 of the Revised Statutes.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
9 a. Autism is a developmental disorder of brain function which is
10 typically manifested in impaired social interaction, problems with
11 verbal and nonverbal communication and imagination, and unusual
12 or severely limited activities and interests. These symptoms
13 generally appear during the first three years of childhood and
14 continue throughout life;

15 ¹**[b.]**¹ According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and
16 Prevention, or CDC, one of every 94 children in this State has
17 autism, which is the highest rate among the states examined by the
18 CDC in the most comprehensive study of the prevalence of autism
19 to date;

20 ¹b. In addition to those diagnosed with autism every year, there
21 are an estimated 4.5 million individuals with intellectual and other
22 developmental disabilities living in the United States, including
23 approximately 200,000 individuals in New Jersey.

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted May 5, 2008.

1 Developmental disabilities are a diverse group of severe chronic
2 conditions that are due to mental or physical impairments which are
3 manifested in problems with major life activities such as language,
4 mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living.
5 Developmental disabilities begin anytime during development up to
6 22 years of age and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.

7 Intellectual disability is characterized both by a significantly
8 below-average score on a test of mental ability or intelligence and
9 by limitations in the ability to function in areas of daily life, such as
10 communication, self-care, and getting along in social situations and
11 school activities. Intellectual disability is sometimes referred to as a
12 cognitive disability or mental retardation. Intellectual disabilities
13 include, but are not limited to, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol
14 syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Cri-du-chat syndrome, Prader-Willi
15 syndrome, as well as infections such as congenital cytomegalovirus
16 or birth defects that affect the brain such as hydrocephalus or
17 cortical atrophy. Other causes of intellectual disability include
18 serious head injury, stroke or certain infections such as meningitis;¹
19 and

20 c. Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and police
21 officers may unexpectedly encounter or be asked to locate a person
22 diagnosed with autism ¹or an intellectual or other developmental
23 disability¹. Given the high number of individuals affected by
24 ¹**[autism]** these disabilities¹, it is altogether fitting and proper to
25 ensure that emergency responders are uniformly trained in
26 recognizing the behavioral symptoms and characteristics of ¹**[an**
27 **autistic child or adult]** a child or adult with one or more of these
28 disabilities¹, and are educated in the high risks associated with
29 ¹**[autism]** these disabilities¹ as well as basic response techniques.
30

31 2. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the
32 Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New
33 Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New
34 Jersey State First Aid Council, shall develop a training curriculum
35 with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks
36 associated with autism ¹or an intellectual or other developmental
37 disability¹, as well as providing instruction in appropriate
38 ¹**[autism]**¹ recognition and response techniques ¹concerning these
39 disabilities¹. The curriculum shall be incorporated into existing
40 time requirements for training and continuing education of
41 emergency responders.

42 b. Prior to certification by the Department of Health and Senior
43 Services, each emergency medical technician trained in basic life
44 support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351
45 (C.26:2K-21) shall be required to satisfactorily complete the
46 training developed under subsection a. of this section. Every
47 emergency medical technician certified prior to the effective date of

1 this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this act,
2 satisfactorily complete the training in '[autism]'¹ recognition and
3 response techniques 'concerning these disabilities,'¹ through
4 existing continuing education requirements.

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

9
10 3. a. The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
11 Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and
12 Emergency Medical Services Institute, shall adopt a training course
13 regarding the risks associated with autism 'or an intellectual or
14 other developmental disability'¹ and appropriate '[autism]'¹
15 recognition and response techniques 'concerning these disabilities,'¹
16 based on the curriculum developed by the Departments of Health
17 and Senior Services and Human Services pursuant to subsection a.
18 of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
19 this bill). The course curriculum and instruction shall be
20 administered to every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

21 b. Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire
22 suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of
23 this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this act,
24 satisfactorily complete a training course in '[autism]'¹ recognition
25 and response techniques 'concerning these disabilities'¹.

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

30
31 4. a. The Police Training Commission in the Department of
32 Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course regarding the
33 risks associated with autism 'or an intellectual or other
34 developmental disability'¹ and appropriate '[autism]'¹ recognition
35 and response techniques 'concerning these disabilities'¹ based on the
36 curriculum developed by the Departments of Health and Senior
37 Services and Human Services pursuant to subsection a. of section 2
38 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
39 bill). The training course shall be administered by the employing
40 agency as part of the in-service training provided to each local
41 police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in this State.

42 b. Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police
43 officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual shall be required to
44 complete the training course adopted under subsection a. of this
45 section. Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective
46 date of this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this
47 act, satisfactorily complete a training course in '[autism]'¹

1 recognition and response techniques 'concerning these disabilities'.

2 c. The Police Training Commission shall adopt rules and
3 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
4 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
5 this act.

6

7 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
8 following enactment.

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13 _____
14 Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism and intellectual and
15 other developmental disabilities awareness program for certain first
responders.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 24, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman FREDERICK SCALERA

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOSEPH J. ROBERTS, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Chiappone, Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblymen
Munoz, Milam, Albano, Connors, Moriarty, Schaer and Chivukula**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism awareness program for emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/8/2008)

1 AN ACT establishing an autism awareness program and
2 supplementing Titles 26 and 52 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. Autism is a developmental disorder of brain function which is
9 typically manifested in impaired social interaction, problems with
10 verbal and nonverbal communication and imagination, and unusual
11 or severely limited activities and interests. These symptoms
12 generally appear during the first three years of childhood and
13 continue throughout life;

14 b. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and
15 Prevention, or CDC, one of every 94 children in this State has
16 autism, which is the highest rate among the states examined by the
17 CDC in the most comprehensive study of the prevalence of autism
18 to date; and

19 c. Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and police
20 officers may unexpectedly encounter or be asked to locate a person
21 diagnosed with autism. Given the high number of individuals
22 affected by autism, it is altogether fitting and proper to ensure that
23 emergency responders are uniformly trained in recognizing the
24 behavioral symptoms and characteristics of an autistic child or
25 adult, and are educated in the high risks associated with autism as
26 well as basic response techniques.

27

28 2. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the
29 Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New
30 Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New
31 Jersey State First Aid Council, shall develop a training curriculum
32 with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks
33 associated with autism, as well as providing instruction in
34 appropriate autism recognition and response techniques. The
35 curriculum shall be incorporated into existing time requirements for
36 training and continuing education of emergency responders.

37 b. Prior to certification by the Department of Health and Senior
38 Services, each emergency medical technician trained in basic life
39 support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351
40 (C.26:2K-21) shall be required to satisfactorily complete the
41 training developed under subsection a. of this section. Every
42 emergency medical technician certified prior to the effective date of
43 this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this act,
44 satisfactorily complete the training in autism recognition and
45 response techniques through existing continuing education
46 requirements.

47 c. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall adopt
48 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure

1 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the
2 purposes of this act.

3
4 3. a. The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
5 Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and
6 Emergency Medical Services Institute, shall adopt a training course
7 regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism
8 recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum
9 developed by the Departments of Health and Senior Services and
10 Human Services pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of
11 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
12 The course curriculum and instruction shall be administered to
13 every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

14 b. Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire
15 suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of
16 this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this act,
17 satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and
18 response techniques.

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

23
24 4. a. The Police Training Commission in the Department of
25 Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course regarding the
26 risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and
27 response techniques based on the curriculum developed by the
28 Departments of Health and Senior Services and Human Services
29 pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
30 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The training course
31 shall be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-
32 service training provided to each local police officer in each law
33 enforcement unit operating in this State.

34 b. Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police
35 officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual shall be required to
36 complete the training course adopted under subsection a. of this
37 section. Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective
38 date of this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this
39 act, satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition
40 and response techniques.

41 c. The Police Training Commission shall adopt rules and
42 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
43 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
44 this act.

45
46 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
47 following enactment.

STATEMENT

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- This bill requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an autism awareness program for emergency responders in this State, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New Jersey State First Aid Council, are to develop a training curriculum with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks associated with autism, as well as providing instruction in appropriate autism recognition and response techniques. The curriculum is to be incorporated into existing time requirements for training and continuing education of emergency responders.

- Prior to certification by DHSS, each emergency medical technician (EMT) trained in basic life support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351 (C.26:2K-21) is required to satisfactorily complete the training developed by DHSS and DHS.

- Every EMT certified prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete the training in autism recognition and response techniques through existing continuing education requirements.

- The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute, is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS.

- The course curriculum and instruction will be administered to every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

- Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and response techniques.

- The Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS. The course is to be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-service training provided to each local police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in the State.

- Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual is to complete the training course.

A1908 SCALERA, ROBERTS

5

- 1 -- Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective date
2 of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date,
3 satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and
4 response techniques.
- 5 • The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month
6 following its enactment.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 24, 2008

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1908.

This bill requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an autism awareness program for emergency responders in this State, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New Jersey State First Aid Council, are to develop a training curriculum with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks associated with autism, as well as providing instruction in appropriate autism recognition and response techniques. The curriculum is to be incorporated into existing time requirements for training and continuing education of emergency responders.

-- Prior to certification by DHSS, each emergency medical technician (EMT) trained in basic life support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351 (C.26:2K-21) is required to satisfactorily complete the training developed by DHSS and DHS.

-- Every EMT certified prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete the training in autism recognition and response techniques through existing continuing education requirements.

- The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute, is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS.

-- The course curriculum and instruction will be administered to every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

-- Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and response techniques.

- The Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS. The course is to be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-service training provided to each local police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in the State.

-- Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual is to complete the training course.

-- Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and response techniques.

- The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month following its enactment.

This bill is similar to Assembly Bill No. 4058 (2R) of 2007 (Scalera/Roberts/Voss), which passed the General Assembly 72-2-5 on March 15, 2007, and was reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee with committee amendments. The bill was pending before the Senate at the conclusion of the 212th Legislature.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1908

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2008

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1908.

As amended by committee, this bill requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an awareness program concerning autism and intellectual or other developmental disabilities, for emergency responders, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New Jersey State First Aid Council, are to develop a training curriculum with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other developmental disability, as well as providing instruction in appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities. The curriculum is to be incorporated into existing time requirements for training and continuing education of emergency responders.
 - Prior to certification by DHSS, each emergency medical technician (EMT) trained in basic life support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351 (C.26:2K-21) is required to satisfactorily complete the training developed by DHSS and DHS.
 - Every EMT certified prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete the training in recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities through existing continuing education requirements.
- The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute, is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other developmental disability and appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS.

-- The course curriculum and instruction will be administered to every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

-- Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities.

- The Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other developmental disability and appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS. The course is to be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-service training provided to each local police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in the State.

-- Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual is to complete the training course.

-- Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities.

- The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month following its enactment.

Committee amendments expand the scope of the bill to include intellectual and other developmental disabilities, as well as autism.

As amended by committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1217 SCA (Weinberg/Gordon), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1908 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 1908 (1R) requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an awareness program concerning autism and intellectual or other developmental disabilities, for emergency responders, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Training curriculum will be developed to inform emergency these personnel of the risks associated with autism or intellectual disability or developmental disability and to instruct these personnel in appropriated recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities. The Commissioners of Health and Senior Services, the Commissioner of Human Services, the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs and the Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety are to adopt the training courses for their respective covered personnel.

The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month following enactment. Every covered person in their position prior to that effective date will have 36 months after the effective date to complete the training.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate No. 1217 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) noted in a Legislative Fiscal Estimate for the bill that it assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 1908
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 15, 2008

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism awareness program for emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters.

Type of Impact: None.

Agencies Affected: Departments of Community Affairs, Health and Senior Services, Law and Public Safety, all first aid squads and advanced life support programs operated by hospitals.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

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

- Costs associated with providing autism awareness training to emergency responders can be supported by the Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund, which is expected to have a \$5.6 million balance at the end of FY 2008.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 1908 of 2008 requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services to establish an autism awareness program for emergency responders in the State, including emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters, and develop a training course and curriculum to inform emergency responders of the risks associated with autism, as well as provide instruction in appropriate recognition and response techniques. Each emergency medical technician is required to satisfactorily complete the training course. Based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS, the Departments of Community Affairs and Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course for persons involved in firefighting and for law enforcement personnel.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

The Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund within DHSS is expected to have a balance of \$5.6 million at the end of FY 2008. This fund can be used for costs associated with developing a curriculum for autism awareness and any associated training costs. (Type summary of OLS fiscal analysis here.)

Section: Human Services

Analyst: Jay A. Hershberg

*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 (C. 52:13B-1 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness program for emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters.
- Type of Impact:** None.
- Agencies Affected:** Departments of Community Affairs, Health and Senior Services, Law and Public Safety, all first aid squads and advanced life support programs operated by hospitals.

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1 - 3</u>
State Cost	No Impact- See comments below

- The Office of Legislative Services assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 1908 (1R) of 2008 requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness program for emergency responders in the State, including emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters, and develop a training course and curriculum to inform emergency responders of the risks associated with these disabilities, as well as provide instruction in appropriate recognition and response techniques. Each emergency medical technician is required to satisfactorily complete the training course. Based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS, the Departments of Community Affairs and Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course for persons involved in firefighting and for law enforcement personnel.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

Section: Human Services Section

*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 (C. 52:13B-1 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 1217

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 21, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism awareness program for emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2008)

1 AN ACT establishing an autism awareness program and
2 supplementing Titles 26 and 52 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. Autism is a developmental disorder of brain function which is
9 typically manifested in impaired social interaction, problems with
10 verbal and nonverbal communication and imagination, and unusual
11 or severely limited activities and interests. These symptoms
12 generally appear during the first three years of childhood and
13 continue throughout life;

14 b. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and
15 Prevention, or CDC, one of every 94 children in this State has
16 autism, which is the highest rate among the states examined by the
17 CDC in the most comprehensive study of the prevalence of autism
18 to date; and

19 c. Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and police
20 officers may unexpectedly encounter or be asked to locate a person
21 diagnosed with autism. Given the high number of individuals
22 affected by autism, it is altogether fitting and proper to ensure that
23 emergency responders are uniformly trained in recognizing the
24 behavioral symptoms and characteristics of an autistic child or
25 adult, and are educated in the high risks associated with autism as
26 well as basic response techniques.

27

28 2. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the
29 Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New
30 Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New
31 Jersey State First Aid Council, shall develop a training curriculum
32 with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks
33 associated with autism, as well as providing instruction in
34 appropriate autism recognition and response techniques. The
35 curriculum shall be incorporated into existing time requirements for
36 training and continuing education of emergency responders.

37 b. Prior to certification by the Department of Health and Senior
38 Services, each emergency medical technician trained in basic life
39 support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351
40 (C.26:2K-21) shall be required to satisfactorily complete the
41 training developed under subsection a. of this section. Every
42 emergency medical technician certified prior to the effective date of
43 this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this act,
44 satisfactorily complete the training in autism recognition and
45 response techniques through existing continuing education
46 requirements.

47 c. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall adopt
48 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure

1 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the
2 purposes of this act.

3
4 3. a. The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
5 Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and
6 Emergency Medical Services Institute, shall adopt a training course
7 regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism
8 recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum
9 developed by the Departments of Health and Senior Services and
10 Human Services pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of
11 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
12 The course curriculum and instruction shall be administered to
13 every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

14 b. Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire
15 suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of
16 this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this act,
17 satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and
18 response techniques.

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

23
24 4. a. The Police Training Commission in the Department of
25 Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course regarding the
26 risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and
27 response techniques based on the curriculum developed by the
28 Departments of Health and Senior Services and Human Services
29 pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
30 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The training course
31 shall be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-
32 service training provided to each local police officer in each law
33 enforcement unit operating in this State.

34 b. Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police
35 officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual shall be required to
36 complete the training course adopted under subsection a. of this
37 section. Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective
38 date of this act shall, within 36 months of the effective date of this
39 act, satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition
40 and response techniques.

41 c. The Police Training Commission shall adopt rules and
42 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
43 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
44 this act.

45
46 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
47 following enactment.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an autism awareness program for emergency responders in this State, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New Jersey State First Aid Council, are to develop a training curriculum with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks associated with autism, as well as providing instruction in appropriate autism recognition and response techniques. The curriculum is to be incorporated into existing time requirements for training and continuing education of emergency responders.

-- Prior to certification by DHSS, each emergency medical technician (EMT) trained in basic life support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351 (C.26:2K-21) is required to satisfactorily complete the training developed by DHSS and DHS.

-- Every EMT certified prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete the training in autism recognition and response techniques through existing continuing education requirements.

- The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute, is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS.

-- The course curriculum and instruction will be administered to every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

-- Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and response techniques.

- The Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism and appropriate autism recognition and response techniques based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS. The course is to be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-service training provided to each local police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in the State.

-- Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual is to complete the training course.

-- Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective date

S1217 WEINBERG, GORDON

5

- 1 of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date,
2 satisfactorily complete a training course in autism recognition and
3 response techniques.
- 4 • The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month
5 following its enactment.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1217

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2008

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1217.

As amended by committee, this bill requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an awareness program concerning autism and intellectual or other developmental disabilities, for emergency responders, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute and the New Jersey State First Aid Council, are to develop a training curriculum with the purpose of informing emergency responders of the risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other developmental disability, as well as providing instruction in appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities. The curriculum is to be incorporated into existing time requirements for training and continuing education of emergency responders.
 - Prior to certification by DHSS, each emergency medical technician (EMT) trained in basic life support services as defined in section 1 of P.L.1985, c.351 (C.26:2K-21) is required to satisfactorily complete the training developed by DHSS and DHS.
 - Every EMT certified prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete the training in recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities through existing continuing education requirements.
- The Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute, is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other developmental disability and appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS.

-- The course curriculum and instruction will be administered to every firefighter recruit, volunteer or paid.

-- Each person, volunteer or paid, who is engaged in fire suppression, firefighting, or fire rescue before the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities.

- The Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety is to adopt a training course regarding the risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other developmental disability and appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS. The course is to be administered by the employing agency as part of the in-service training provided to each local police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in the State.

-- Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local police officer in a law enforcement unit, an individual is to complete the training course.

-- Every local police officer appointed prior to the effective date of the bill must, within 36 months of that effective date, satisfactorily complete a training course in recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities.

- The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month following its enactment.

Committee amendments expand the scope of the bill to include intellectual and other developmental disabilities, as well as autism.

As amended by committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1908 SCA (Scalera/Roberts), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1217

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1217 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 1272 (1R) requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an awareness program concerning autism and intellectual or other developmental disabilities, for emergency responders, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

Training curriculum will be developed to inform emergency these personnel of the risks associated with autism or intellectual disability or developmental disability and to instruct these personnel in appropriated recognition and response techniques concerning these disabilities. The Commissioners of Health and Senior Services, the Commissioner of Human Services, the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs and the Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety are to adopt the training courses for their respective covered personnel.

The bill takes effect on the first day of the seventh month following enactment. Every covered person in their position prior to that effective date will have 36 months after the effective date to complete the training.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly No. 1908 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) noted in a Legislative Fiscal Estimate for the bill that it assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1217 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness program for emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters.
- Type of Impact:** None.
- Agencies Affected:** Departments of Community Affairs, Health and Senior Services, Law and Public Safety, all first aid squads and advanced life support programs operated by hospitals.

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

- The Office of Legislative Services assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 1217 (1R) of 2008 requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Human Services (DHS) to establish an autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness program for emergency responders in the State, including emergency medical technicians, police officers and firefighters, and develop a training course and curriculum to inform emergency responders of the risks associated with these disabilities, as well as provide instruction in appropriate recognition and response techniques. Each emergency medical technician is required to satisfactorily complete the training course. Based on the curriculum developed by DHSS and DHS, the Departments of Community Affairs and Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course for persons involved in firefighting and for law enforcement personnel.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services assumes that there already exists training information and materials related to autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and that costs to develop a training curriculum will be minimal.

Section: Human Services Section

*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 (C. 52:13B-1 et seq.).



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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

For Immediate Release:

For Kids
Release: September 9, 2008

For More Information:

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Governor Signs Legislation Safeguarding Special Needs Individuals

TRENTON - Governor Corzine today signed legislation that enhances protections for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The first bill, A839/S989, requires wheelchair bound passengers to be secured with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards approved securement device when traveling in a passenger car or other designated vehicle.

"This measure will not only ensure the safety of wheelchair bound passengers, it will also protect all those who travel New Jersey's roads," said Governor Corzine. "Taking this precaution will help to avoid unnecessary and

preventable injuries."

Failure to properly secure a wheelchair bound passenger will now result in a \$100 fine.

"In an accident, an unsecured wheelchair could be thrown forward through a windshield, seriously injuring its occupant, other passengers in the car, and others nearby," said Senator Madden, (D-Camden and Gloucester), who serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Transportation Panel. "By requiring these wheelchair-bound passengers to be secured while riding, we can help to prevent these types of accidents and increase safety on our roadways."

Primary sponsors of the bill include Assemblymen Upendra J. Chivukula (D-Middlesex, Somerset) and Eric Munoz (R-Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union). Senate primary sponsors were Senators Fred H. Madden Jr. (D-Camden, Gloucester) and Thomas H. Kean, Jr. (R-Essex, Morris, Somerset, Union).

Governor Corzine also signed A1908/S1217, which requires the Departments of Health and Senior Services and Human Services to develop an autism, intellectual and developmental disability training course and curriculum for first responders, including emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters.

"Training first responders to meet the needs of a person with autism has become an acknowledged need across the country," said Governor Corzine. "Autism is an invisible disability - one that is not always immediately recognized. That's why it's important that we supply our emergency responders with accurate information on how to treat and work with these special needs individuals."

New EMTs, volunteer and paid firefighters and local police officer recruits would be required to complete the training as a condition of certification. EMTs, firefighters and police officers who are currently licensed in New Jersey would be required to complete the training as a continuing education course within three years of the bill's enactment date.

"With his signature today, Governor Corzine is keeping New Jersey squarely at the forefront of the national effort to clear roadblocks and raise awareness so autistic individuals can become independent and successful members of society," said Speaker Roberts (D-Camden).

"Training courses like the ones called for in this legislation are absolutely necessary to help protect people with special needs, and the first responders who may come to their rescue in an emergency situation," said Senator

Robert M. Gordon (D-Bergen). "While I am confident that our law enforcement officers and first responders work hard to treat all people with respect, this is an issue of fairness. I would hate to hear of a person living with autism being physically harmed because of their inability to comprehend instructions they've been given."

"Although New Jersey is a national leader in providing care and support for those with autism, it is essential that our first-responder network is sufficiently trained to recognize autism and how to handle individuals who have this disorder," said Assemblyman Scalera (D-Essex) "Giving New Jersey's police officers and firefighters the tools and training to understand and help individuals with autism will make them better professionals."

Primary sponsors of the legislation in the Assembly were Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. (D-Camden) and Assemblymen Frederick Scalera (D-Essex) and Paul D. Moriarity (D-Camden, Gloucester). Sponsors in the Senate included Senators Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen) and Robert M. Gordon (D-Bergen).

New Jersey has the highest rate of prevalence of autism among states studied by the CDC, or 1 in every 94 children in the state has autism. Last September, Governor Corzine signed a package of seven bills relating to autism spectrum disorders.

###

**Photos from Governor Corzine's public events are available
in the [Governor's Newsroom section](#) on the State of New Jersey web page.**

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