


The background of the slide is a blue-toned abstract graphic. It features a stylized globe with a person silhouette standing on it. A bright light beam shines from the top right, illuminating the scene. The globe is composed of various geometric shapes and lines, creating a sense of depth and movement.

2019 Legislative Overview:

Legislation Relating to or Affecting Autism




**RELATING TO OR
AFFECTING SUBSTANTIVE
LEGISLATION**



Act 316 – Amends Definitions of “Healthcare Provider” Under Insurance Laws

- Adds “Certified behavioral health providers” and “Licensed intellectual and developmental disabilities service providers” to the definition of “healthcare provider” under the Patient Protection Act of 1995 and Any Willing Provider laws



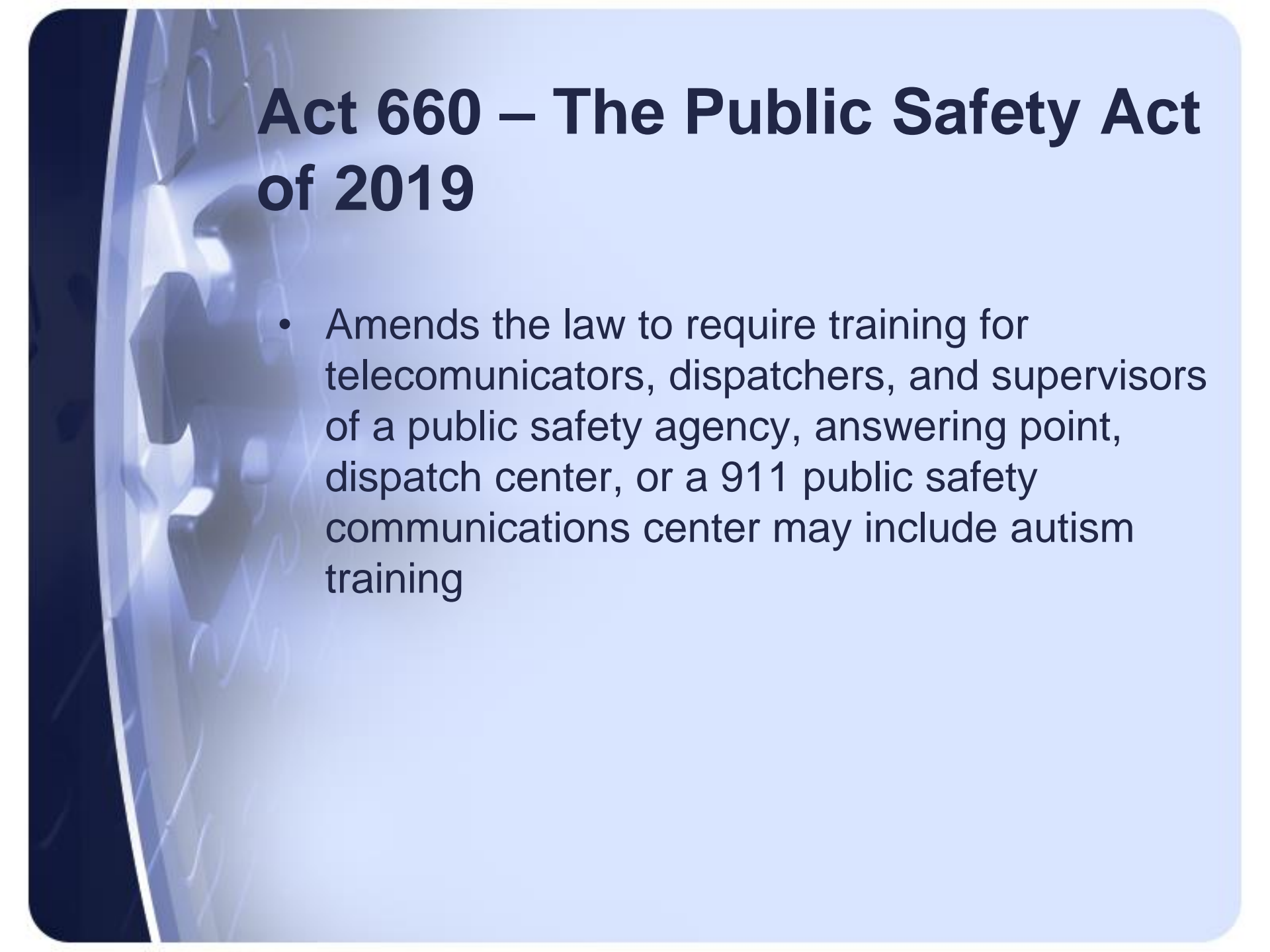
Act 557 – Concerning Corporal Punishment

- Prohibits the use of corporal punishment on a child “who is intellectually disabled, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic”
- An employee or volunteer who does administer corporal punishment to a child who is intellectually disabled, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic is not subject to the protection against civil liability, attorney’s fees, and costs of defense



Act 548 – To Deem a Student With an Individualized Service Plan Eligible for Participation in the Succeed Scholarship Program

- A student who has an individualized service plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(1) is eligible for participation in the Succeed Scholarship Program




Act 660 – The Public Safety Act of 2019

- Amends the law to require training for telecommunicators, dispatchers, and supervisors of a public safety agency, answering point, dispatch center, or a 911 public safety communications center may include autism training



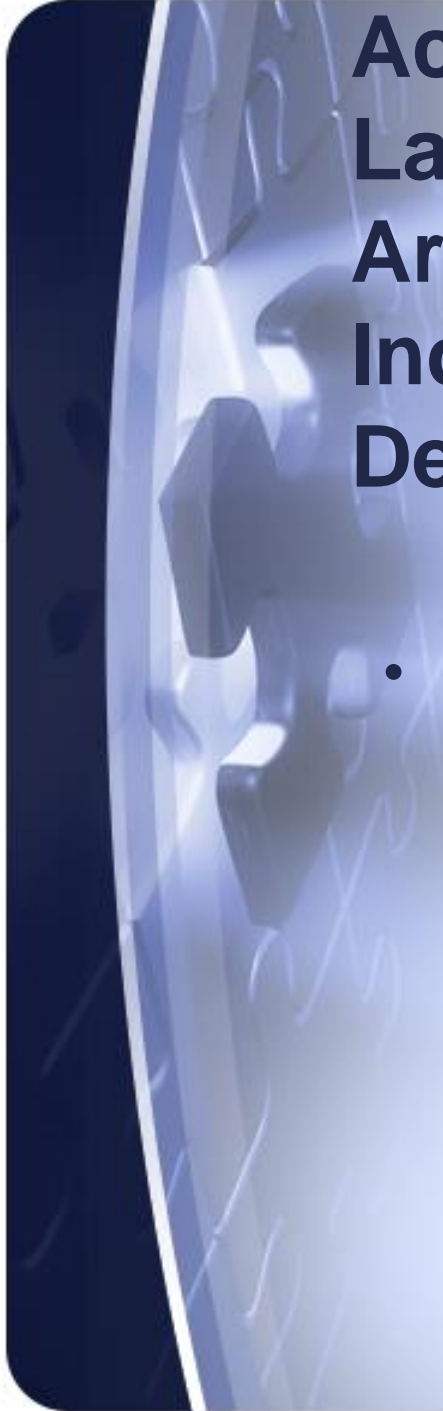
Act 1004 – To Add a Facility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to the Distance Requirements for a Medical Marijuana Dispensary

- Amends Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 98, also known as the “Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016” to add a facility for individuals with developmental disabilities to the distance requirements of a location of a dispensary
- Became effective on April 15, 2019 –
Emergency Clause



Act 1033 – To Eliminate the Waiting List for the Alternative Community Services Waiver Program, also known as the “Developmental Disabilities Waiver”

- Requires DHS to eliminate the waiting list as existing on March 1, 2019 for the Alternative Community Services Waiver Program, also known as the “Developmental Disabilities Waiver” as soon as possible but no later than 3 years after the effective date of the act



Act 1035 – To Ensure Respectful Language is Used within the Arkansas Code Regarding Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Amends the Arkansas Code to remove the terms “mental retardation” and “disabled person” with respectful terms



Act 1041 – To Create the Task Force on Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral Health Patients

- Creates an executive branch task force to review and recommend protocol and procedures to create standardization and consistency when transporting behavioral health patients in a nonemergency situation
- Report to the Public Health Committees on or before March 1, 2020



Act 1078 – To Expand the Eligibility for Students Participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program

- An individual who has been medically diagnosed by a licensed physician as a child with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(1) is eligible for participation in the Succeed Scholarship Program



**RELATING TO OR
AFFECTING
APPROPRIATION
LEGISLATION**



Act 339 – Appropriation for University of Arkansas Fayetteville

- Section 11 - Appropriated to the University of Arkansas to be payable from the University of Arkansas Fund for the 2019-2020 fiscal year - **\$250,000** for Partners for Inclusive Communities – Personal Services, Maintenance and Operating Expenses, Matching, and Grants
- Section 12 – Appropriated to the University of Arkansas to be payable from the University of Arkansas Fund for the 2019-2020 fiscal year - **\$2,500,000** for operating expenses of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville – Arkansas Centers for Rural Education in Autism and Related Disabilities

Act 874 – Appropriation for DDS

- Section 10 – Appropriated to DDS to be payable from the Developmental Disabilities Services Fund Account for the 2019-2020 fiscal year - **\$273,974** for Autism Treatment and Coordination Grants & Aid & Autism Waiver Services
- Section 15 – Special Language requiring that the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services budget, allocate, and expend up to **\$1,000,000** for the elimination of the Autism Waiver Services Program waiting list



**FAILED RELATING TO OR
AFFECTING
LEGISLATION**


HB1150 – To Modify the Definition of “Qualifying Medical Condition”

- Would have added attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and autism (among other conditions) to the definition of “qualifying medical condition” in Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 98, also known as the “Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016”



SB317 – To Prohibit Discrimination Against Individuals with Disabilities Regarding Access to Organ Transplantation

- Would have required covered entities to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures and provided auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities during the organ transplantation process



HB1935 – To Require DHS to Cover Nonemergency Transportation Services for Individuals Receiving Developmental Disability Services

- Would have required DHS to provide or offer coverage of nonemergency transportation services to individuals receiving daily developmental disability services that may include adult developmental day treatment or early intervention day treatment services



Questions?

Jessica Beel, Legislative Attorney

beelj@blr.arkansas.gov

501-537-9338