Act 1272 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas   *As Engrossed: S3/30/09*

2 87th General Assembly   A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2009   SENATE BILL   938

4

5 By: Senators D. Johnson, Salmon

6 By: Representative Lindsey

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9   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10   AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON

11   AUTISM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS

12   MEMBERS; TO DESCRIBE ITS MISSION AND

13   RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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15   **Subtitle**

16   AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK

17   FORCE ON AUTISM.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 10, Chapter 3 is amended to add an

23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24   10-3-2501. Title.

25   This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas

26 Legislative Task Force on Autism Act".

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28   10-3-2502. Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism — Creation.

29   (a)   The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism is created.

30   (b)   The task force shall consist of the following members:

31   (1)   One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by

32 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

33   (2)   One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro

34 Tempore of the Senate;

35   (3)   One (1) member who is an employee of the Division of Medical

1   Services of the Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the

2   Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;

3   (4)   One (1) member who is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

4   appointed by the Arkansas Psychology Board;

5   (5)   One (1) member to represent Easter Seals appointed by Easter

6   Seals Arkansas;

7   (6)   The Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

8   Services of the Department of Health and Human Services;

9   (7)   The Behavior Intervention Coordinator of the Department of

10   Education;

11   (8)   One (1) member to represent Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue

12   Shield;

13   (9)   One (1) member who is a pediatric physician who regularly

14   works with autistic patients appointed by the Dennis Developmental Center of

15   the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Arkansas for Medical

16   Sciences;

17   (10) One (1) member who is a clinical geneticist appointed by

18   the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

19   (11) One (1) member to represent Partners for Inclusive

20   Communities of the University Centers of Excellence in Developmental

21   Disabilities Education, Research, and Service of the University of Arkansas

22   *for Medical Sciences;*

23   *(12) The Behavior Intervention Services Coordinator for the*

24   *Department of Education;*

25   *(13) The Associate Director of Special Education of the*

26   *Department of Education;*

27   *(14) One(1) public school Special Education Supervisor appointed*

28   *by the Arkansas Association of Special Education Administrators;*

29   *(15) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Children's*

30   Hospital Research Institute appointed by Arkansas Children's Hospital;

31   *(16)* Four (4) members who are parents or guardians of children

32   with autism appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

33   *(17)* Four (4) members who are parents or guardians of children

34   with autism appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

35   (c)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the

36   first of the task force meeting within thirty (30) days of the effective date

1   of this subchapter.

2   (2)   At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall

3   elect from the membership a chair and other officers as needed for the

4   transaction of its business.

5   (3)(A)   The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski

6   County at the State Capitol.

7   (B)   Meetings shall be held at least one (1) time every

8   three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the chair.

9   (d)(1)   If a vacancy occurs among the legislative members of the task

10   force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original

11   appointment.

12   (2)   If a vacancy occurs among the nonlegislative members of the

13   task force, the vacancy shall be filled by vote of the task force.

14   (e)   The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting

15   its business.

16   (f)   A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a

17   quorum for transacting any business of the task force.

18   (g)   The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the

19   task force.

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21   10-3-2503. Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism — Duties.

22   (a)   The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism shall:

23   (1)   Examine how the State of Arkansas responds to autism and

24   autism spectrum disorders;

25   (2)   Determine the best practices to treat autism and autism

26   spectrum disorders;

27   (3)   Recommend more efficient methods for treating autism and

28   autism spectrum disorders;

29   (4)   Recommend how to obtain more federal funds for treating

30   autism and autism spectrum disorders and provide special education to

31   children with autism and autism spectrum disorders; and

32   (5)   Recommend to the General Assembly specific changes to the

33   law that will improve treatment of autism and autism spectrum disorders and

34   improve the provision of special education to children with autism and autism

35   spectrum disorders.

36   (b)   On or before August 31 of each year, the task force shall provide

1   the General Assembly with a written explanation of the recommended

2   legislative changes.

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4   /s/ D. Johnson

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6   APPROVED: 4/8/2009

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