

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 1016 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2739

5 By: Representative D. Johnson
6
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
10 AUTISM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS
11 MEMBERS; TO DESCRIBE ITS MISSION AND
12 RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 AN ACT TO CREATE THE LEGISLATIVE TASK
16 FORCE ON AUTISM.
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18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. This act shall be known and may be cited as*
22 *the "Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism".*
23

24 *SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism –*
25 *Creation.*

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

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

28 *(1) One (1) member who is an employee of the Division of Medical*
29 *Services of the Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the*
30 *Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;*

31 *(2) One (1) member who is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst*
32 *appointed by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology;*

33 *(3) One (1) member to represent Easter Seals appointed by Easter*
34 *Seals Arkansas;*

35 *(4) The Director of the Division of Disability Services of the*



1 Department of Health and Human Services;

2 (5) The Behavior Intervention Coordinator of the Department of
3 Education;

4 (6) One (1) member to represent Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue
5 Shield;

6 (7) One (1) member who is a pediatric physician who regularly
7 works with autistic patients appointed by the Dennis Developmental Center of
8 the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Arkansas for Medical
9 Sciences;

10 (8) One (1) member who is a clinical geneticist appointed by the
11 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

12 (9) One (1) member to represent Partners for Inclusive
13 Communities of the University Centers of Excellence in Developmental
14 Disabilities of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

15 (10) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Children's
16 Hospital Research Institute appointed by the Arkansas Children's Hospital;

17 (11) One (1) member who is an attorney who regularly works with
18 children who have special needs and require special education appointed by
19 the Arkansas Bar Association;

20 (12) Two (2) members who are parents or guardians of children
21 with autism appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

22 (13) Two (2) members who are parents or guardians of children
23 with autism appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

24 (c)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the
25 first meeting within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
26 subchapter.

27 (2) At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall
28 elect from the membership a chair and other officers as needed for the
29 transaction of its business.

30 (3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski
31 County at the State Capitol.

32 (B) Meetings shall be held at least one (1) time every
33 three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the chair.

34 (d) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled
35 by the same process as the original appointment.

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

1 its business.

2 (f) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
3 quorum for transacting any business of the task force.

4 (g) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the
5 task force.

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7 *SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism –*
8 *Duties.*

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

10 (1) Examine how the State of Arkansas responds to autism and
11 autism spectrum disorders;

12 (2) Determine the best practices to treat autism and autism
13 spectrum disorders;

14 (3) Recommend more efficient methods for treating autism and
15 autism spectrum disorders;

16 (4) Recommend how to obtain more federal funds for treating
17 autism and autism spectrum disorders and providing special education to
18 children with autism and autism spectrum disorders; and

19 (5) Recommend to the General Assembly specific changes to the
20 law that will improve treatment of autism and autism spectrum disorders and
21 improve the provision of special education to children with autism and autism
22 spectrum disorders.

23 (b) On or before August 31, 2008, the task force shall provide the
24 legislature with a written explanation of the recommended legislative
25 changes.

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27 *SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on*
28 *Autism shall be abolished effective October 1, 2008*

29
30 /s/ D. Johnson

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32 *APPROVED: 4/3/2007*