

2025 Regular Session  
Legislation including the term "autism"

General Legislation

**ACT 16 (HB1046)** establishes a Blue Envelope Program to ease communication between an individual with autism spectrum disorder and law enforcement during a motor vehicle-related interaction. The act directs the Department of Finance and Administration to develop and make available a specially designed blue envelope to hold essential documents, including without limitation a driver's license, vehicle registration, and contact card, by January 1, 2026. The blue envelope shall also include communication guidelines on its exterior that are specifically tailored to assist law enforcement officers in recognizing and adapting approaches when interacting with a driver with autism spectrum disorder. The act provides that an individual with autism spectrum disorder who would like to obtain a blue envelope may request a blue envelope at his or her local department office beginning January 1, 2026.

**ACT 386 (HB1586)** amends the definition of "autism spectrum disorder" under the Medicaid waiver to require that at least two (2) qualified professionals of different types each conclude that a child meets the diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder.

Fiscal Legislation

**Act 612 (SB127)**, in section 6, appropriates two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the University of Arkansas for Partners for Inclusive Communities, payable from the University of Arkansas Fund, for personal services, maintenance and operating expenses, matching funds, or grants for the development of a state center and satellite centers to provide training, consultation, and support to families and professionals for autism and related disabilities across the state for fiscal year 2025-2026.

**Act 888 (SB34)**, in section 11, includes special language extending the requirement for the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services of the Department of Human Services to budget, allocate, and expend up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the elimination of the Autism Waiver Services Program waiting list for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.