

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 1272 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

*As Engrossed: S3/30/09*

**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 938

4  
5 By: Senators D. Johnson, Salmon  
6 By: Representative Lindsey

**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.

**Subtitle**

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

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

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".

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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*/s/ D. Johnson*

**APPROVED: 4/8/2009**