

CHAPTER 182
SENATE BILL No. 138*

AN ACT establishing the Kansas autism task force; relating to the powers and duties thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas autism task force. The task force shall be made up of the following members:

(1) Four members appointed by the president of the senate. Of such members, one shall be a member of the Kansas senate; one shall be a psychiatrist; one shall be a member of the faculty at the department of applied behavioral science at the university of Kansas with a specialization in the area of autism; and one shall be a behavioral analyst who has been certified by the behavioral analyst certification board with a specialization in the area of autism and shall have at least five years experience in providing early intensive intervention to children with autism in a private-practice setting;

(2) three members appointed by the minority leader of the senate. Of such members, one shall be a member of the Kansas senate; one shall be a parent of a child with autism; and one shall be a special education teacher with a specialization in the area of autism and shall have at least five years experience in teaching children with autism;

(3) four members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. Of such members, one shall be a member of the Kansas house of representatives; one shall be a parent of a child with autism; one shall be a member of the faculty of the department of special education at an institution of higher education with a specialization in the area of autism; and one shall be a developmental pediatrician;

(4) three members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives. Of such members, one shall be a member of the Kansas house of representatives; one shall be a parent of a child with autism; and one shall be a clinical child psychologist with an expertise in the area of autism;

(5) four members appointed by the governor. Of such members, one shall be a parent of a child with autism; one shall be a speech language pathologist; one shall be an occupational therapist; and one shall be a member of a board of education of a school district;

(6) one member appointed by the parents of children with autism appointed pursuant to subsections (a)(2) through (5). Such member shall be a parent of a child with autism;

(7) one member appointed by the commissioner of insurance. Such member shall be a representative of health insurance companies doing business in the state of Kansas; and

(8) four members, which shall consist of one member appointed by the chief administrative officer of the Capper foundation easter seals located in Topeka, Kansas, the secretary of health and environment, the secretary of social and rehabilitation services and the commissioner of education, or such secretary's or commissioner's designee, who shall serve only as non-voting ex officio members of the task force.

(b) One of the members appointed by the governor shall be designated by the governor to serve as chairperson of the task force. Members of the task force shall be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of this act. The task force shall meet on call of the chairperson or on the request of 11 or more members of the task force. Eleven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum.

(c) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) The staff of the office of the revisor of statutes, the legislative research department and the division of legislative administrative services shall provide such assistance as may be requested by the task force and authorized by the legislative coordinating council. Upon request of the task force, the department of education, the department of health and environment and the department of social and rehabilitation services shall provide to the task force any information and supporting documentation relating thereto requested by the task force.

(e) Except as provided by this subsection, members of the task force attending meetings of such task force or subcommittee meetings thereof as authorized by such task force, shall be paid amounts as provided in

subsection (e) of K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto, upon vouchers approved by the chairperson of the task force or the chairperson's designee. No member of the task force shall be paid an amount as provided in subsection (e) of K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto, if such member receives an amount from another governmental or private entity for the purpose for which such amount is payable under subsection (e) of K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto.

(f) The task force shall study and conduct hearings on the issues relating to, the needs of and services available for persons with autism including, but not limited to:

(1) The re-alignment of state agencies that provide services for children with autism;

(2) the availability or accessibility of services for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of children with autism and the availability or accessibility of services for the parents or guardians of children with autism;

(3) the need to increase the number of qualified professionals and paraprofessionals who are able to provide evidence-based intervention and other services to children with autism and incentives which may be offered to meet that need;

(4) the benefits currently available for services provided to children with autism;

(5) study and discussion of an autism registry which would (A) provide accurate numbers of children with autism, (B) improve the understanding of the spectrum of autism disorders and (C) allow for more complete epidemiologic surveys of the autism disorder;

(6) the creation and design of a financial assistance program for children with autism;

(7) the establishment of a hotline that the parents or guardians of children with autism may use to locate services for children with autism;

(8) additional funding sources to support programs that provide evidence-based intervention or treatment of autism, including funding for the development of regional centers of excellence for the diagnosis and treatment of autism; and

(9) develop recommendations for the best practices for early evidence-based intervention for children with autism.

(g) The task force shall submit reports of the activities and recommendations of the task force to the legislative educational planning committee. A preliminary report shall be submitted on or before November 15, 2007. The final report shall be submitted on or before November 15, 2008. Such reports shall include recommendations for legislative changes.

(h) As used in this section, "autism" means all disorders within the autism spectrum including, but not limited to, autism, Asperger's syndrome, pervasive development disorders and pervasive development disorder, not otherwise specified.

(i) The provisions of this section shall expire on December 31, 2008.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved May 11, 2007.
