

1-1 By: Thompson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Gallegos) H.B. No. 1574
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2009;
1-3 April 24, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 5, 2009, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 5, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to services for persons with autism and other pervasive
1-9 developmental disorders and their families.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Chapter 114, Human Resources Code, is amended by
1-12 adding Section 114.013 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 114.013. AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS RESOURCE CENTER.

1-14 (a) The Health and Human Services Commission shall establish and
1-15 administer an autism spectrum disorders resource center to
1-16 coordinate resources for individuals with autism and other
1-17 pervasive developmental disorders and their families. In
1-18 establishing and administering the center, the Health and Human
1-19 Services Commission shall consult with the council and coordinate
1-20 with appropriate state agencies, including each agency represented
1-21 on the council.

1-22 (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall design
1-23 the center to:

1-24 (1) collect and distribute information and research
1-25 regarding autism and other pervasive developmental disorders;

1-26 (2) conduct training and development activities for
1-27 persons who may interact with an individual with autism or another
1-28 pervasive developmental disorder in the course of their employment,
1-29 including school, medical, or law enforcement personnel;

1-30 (3) coordinate with local entities that provide
1-31 services to an individual with autism or another pervasive
1-32 developmental disorder; and

1-33 (4) provide support for families affected by autism
1-34 and other pervasive developmental disorders.

1-35 SECTION 2. (a) The executive commissioner of the Health
1-36 and Human Services Commission shall conduct a study to determine
1-37 the costs and benefits to this state of initiating a pilot program
1-38 to provide services to adult persons with autism and other related
1-39 disabilities with similar support needs.

1-40 (b) The study will determine the costs and benefits of a
1-41 pilot program based on a program designed to:

1-42 (1) encourage sustainable employment and community
1-43 integration through specialized supports coordination, case
1-44 management, vocational assessment, training, and support to
1-45 increase job skills and competitive employment opportunities;

1-46 (2) develop meaningful community-based activities for
1-47 persons for whom competitive employment is not a goal;

1-48 (3) promote continued individual development and
1-49 avoid regression;

1-50 (4) promote self-determination and independence;

1-51 (5) coordinate services and behavioral supports
1-52 across all areas of need; and

1-53 (6) allow for flexible funding and for a flexible
1-54 array of services to meet individual needs.

1-55 (c) In conducting the study, the executive commissioner of
1-56 the Health and Human Services Commission shall:

1-57 (1) define and describe a pilot program with a
1-58 seamless system of supports to provide:

1-59 (A) options for independent living, if
1-60 appropriate;

1-61 (B) community-based housing, if needed; and

1-62 (C) individualized supports, including:

1-63 (i) prevocational training;

1-64 (ii) employment training; and

2-1 (iii) leisure and recreational activities;
2-2 (2) research and analyze best practices and programs
2-3 from other states that may serve as pilot program models;
2-4 (3) consult with and solicit feedback from key
2-5 stakeholders, including advocacy organizations, potential service
2-6 recipients, and parents;
2-7 (4) address the barriers that may prevent adults with
2-8 autism or other related disabilities with similar support needs
2-9 from living in their local community including:
2-10 (A) housing needs and living arrangements;
2-11 (B) behavioral services;
2-12 (C) social and communication services and
2-13 supports;
2-14 (D) transportation issues; and
2-15 (E) health and medical care;
2-16 (5) identify the existence and cause of service gaps
2-17 in this state;
2-18 (6) develop recommendations and determine costs
2-19 associated with eliminating service gaps;
2-20 (7) identify the potential benefit to persons who
2-21 would receive services from the pilot program; and
2-22 (8) identify potential federal sources of funding for
2-23 a pilot program.
2-24 (d) Not later than September 1, 2010, the executive
2-25 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
2-26 submit a report of the findings and conclusions of the study to the
2-27 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
2-28 representatives, and the presiding officers of the standing
2-29 committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary
2-30 jurisdiction over the provision of services to persons with
2-31 disabilities.
2-32 (e) The report required under Subsection (d) of this section
2-33 must include:
2-34 (1) a recommendation for the structure of a pilot
2-35 program;
2-36 (2) a recommendation on the choice of an appropriate
2-37 agency to design and administer a pilot program;
2-38 (3) an estimation of the number of persons who may
2-39 benefit from a pilot program if a program similar to the pilot
2-40 program were instituted statewide;
2-41 (4) an estimation of the potential costs of the pilot
2-42 program and whether the pilot program may lead to savings;
2-43 (5) a method of determining which persons would be
2-44 eligible to participate in the pilot program; and
2-45 (6) which Medicaid waiver programs are appropriate to
2-46 the pilot program and whether new Medicaid waiver programs may be
2-47 required.

2-48 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

2-49 * * * * *