

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 A8:36

SENATE

RECEIVED BY 

Senate Bill No. 1124

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Autism is a lifelong pervasive developmental disorder identified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). The five pervasive developmental disorders are: autistic disorder; Asperger's disorder; pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise specified; Rett's disorder; and childhood disintegrative disorder. These lifelong disorders are often referred to collectively as autism spectrum disorders.

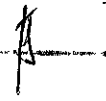
Autism spectrum disorders are neurologically based developmental disorders that can have profound lifelong effects in social interaction, the ability to communicate, imagination and the establishment of relationships. Research findings suggest that up to 48 percent of young children with autism spectrum disorders make marked progress when they receive intensive early intervention.


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AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Interagency Initiative.- The Secretary of Department of Health and the Secretary of Education shall develop an interagency proposal for a coordinated, life-long system of care designed to address the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families.

The Department of Health shall assume primary responsibility for developing the proposed plan. The plan shall be developed in collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including individuals with ASD and their families, professionals with established expertise in ASD, private and public providers of services to individuals with ASD and their families and entities providing support to families of individuals with ASD. Collaboration with individuals with ASD and their families shall reflect diversity in geography, in diagnoses, and in the severity of symptoms. It shall also ensure consideration of an individual's needs as a child, as a youth and as an adult.

SECTION 2. The proposed plan shall include:

- (1) A profile of the range of diagnoses and needs of the children, youth, and adults to be served.
- (2) Projections of the future needs of individuals with ASD, including transitional services related to socialization, job training and employment and independent living in a community-based format to assist individuals moving from school to the community.
- (3) Identification of the specific goals of the proposed plan for a lifelong system of care for individuals with ASD and their families.
- (4) Development of research-based best practices guidelines to enhance the ability of public and private providers to meet the needs of individuals with ASD and their families.

(5) A review of the educational and human services-related supports and services currently available to individuals with ASD throughout their lifetime.

(6) A review of the supports and services currently available to the families of individuals with ASD.

(7) Identification of the strengths of and deficiencies in the current system of supports and services identified in subdivisions (5) and (6) of this subsection and of the availability of those supports and services in all areas of the state.

(8) Identification of the additional supports and services needed for an effective lifelong system of care for individuals with ASD and their families and recommendations for how unmet needs might be satisfied.

(9) A review of the current role of public schools in connection with the provision of services to individuals with ASD, including:

(A) The financial impact that the provision of these services has on school budgets.

(B) Consideration of whether the current allocation of costs between the education system and the agency of human services for the provision of services to individuals with ASD is appropriate and whether any possible reallocation is appropriate, advisable and consistent with law.

(10) A detailed proposal, with a related timeline, for implementing the proposed lifelong system of care, including:

(A) The manner in which existing resources and facilities might be used or redirected to support the system.

(B) The availability of funding sources for the proposed system of care.

(C) Strategies to encourage collaboration among existing and new resources to provide coordinated, lifelong services, training, technical assistance, information dissemination and consultation to individuals with ASD and their families, including a centralized, publicly available information system with an information "hotline."

(D) Strategies to encourage collaboration among existing and new resources to provide coordinated training, technical assistance, information dissemination, and consultation to schools, local agencies, and other providers of developmental, mental health and early intervention services to individuals with ASD and their families.

(E) Strategies for enabling access to the early and accurate diagnosis of ASD.

(F) Strategies for encouraging collaboration with higher education programs to provide a sufficient number of well-trained professionals to provide lifelong services to individuals with ASD and their families in all regions of the state.

(G) Provisions ensuring regular review and revision of the proposed system of care.

SECTION 3. Appropriations. -- The amount necessary to initially implement this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause.- Any provision of law, executive order, decree or rules of court, which may be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause.- If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. . This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,