

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 527

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

February 22, 2007

An act to add Article 5.7 (commencing with Section 124017) to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 4643.4 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to autism.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 527, as amended, Steinberg. Autism spectrum disorders: screening.

Existing law, the Lanterman Developmental *Disabilities* Services Act, requires the State Department of Developmental Services to contract with regional centers for the provision of various services and support to persons with developmental disabilities, including autistic spectrum disorders.

Existing law, the California Early Intervention Services Act, commonly known as the Early Start program, provides various early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have disabilities or who are at risk of having disabilities to enhance their development and to minimize the potential for developmental delays.

The bill would require the State Department of Developmental Services, no later than January 1, 2009, to implement, *to the extent practicable*, its guidelines for the screening and diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorders for children enrolled in the Early Start program, *as provided*.

Existing law sets forth specified duties on ~~physicians and other~~ health care service providers to provide patients with certain information related to various health needs.

This bill would require any ~~physician who treats patients who are children to routinely evaluate any patient who is 5 years of age or younger for behaviors resembling those identified as autism spectrum disorders~~ *health care provider who performs a periodic health assessment of a child between birth and 5 years of age to comply with certain standards of care on developmental surveillance and screening, as approved by the State Department of Public Health, and to provide parents and legal guardians with certain information during a child’s well-child visit, as provided, relating to ~~cognitive impairments developmental disabilities,~~ including, autistic spectrum disorders, and if appropriate, information about local regional centers or other organizations that provide screening and related services for children with autistic spectrum disorders.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 5.7 (commencing with Section 124017)
2 is added to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and
3 Safety Code, to read:

4
5 Article 5.7. Autistic Spectrum Disorders Screening

6
7 124017. ~~A physician who treats patients who are children shall~~
8 ~~do all of the following:~~

9 ~~(a) Routinely evaluate patients who are five years of age or~~
10 ~~younger for behaviors resembling those identified as autistic~~
11 ~~spectrum disorders.~~

12 ~~(b) Provide parents and other legal guardians during a child’s~~
13 ~~well-child visit with information about cognitive impairments,~~
14 ~~including, but not limited to, autistic spectrum disorders.~~

15 ~~(c) Provide parents and other legal guardians with information~~
16 ~~about local regional centers and other organizations that provide~~
17 ~~resources and services, including screening services, for children~~
18 ~~with autistic spectrum disorders.~~

1 ~~124018. No later than January 1, 2009, the State Department~~
2 ~~of Developmental Services shall implement its best practices~~
3 ~~guidelines, “Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Best Practice Guidelines~~
4 ~~for Screening, Diagnosis and Assessment” (2003), relating to the~~
5 ~~screening and diagnosis of children receiving services pursuant to~~
6 ~~the California Early Intervention Services Act (Title 14~~
7 ~~(commencing with Section 95000) of the Government Code);~~
8 ~~commonly known as the Early Start program, who show signs and~~
9 ~~risks of autistic spectrum disorders.~~

10 *124017. Every health care provider who performs a periodic*
11 *health assessment of a child between birth and five years of age*
12 *shall do both of the following:*

13 *(a) Comply with the standard of care on developmental*
14 *surveillance and screening adopted by the American Academy of*
15 *Pediatrics, or other nationally recognized physician group*
16 *dedicated to serving the needs of children, as approved by the*
17 *State Department of Public Health.*

18 *(b) Provide parents and other legal guardians during a child’s*
19 *well-child visit that takes place when the child is between the ages*
20 *of 12 months and five years of age with information about*
21 *developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism*
22 *spectrum disorders, and if appropriate, information about local*
23 *regional centers and other organizations that provide resources*
24 *and services, including screening services, for children with autism*
25 *spectrum disorders.*

26 SEC. 2. Section 4643.4 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
27 Code, to read:

28 4643.4. (a) No later than January 1, 2009, the State Department
29 of Developmental Services shall implement, *to the extent*
30 *practicable*, its best practices guidelines, “Autistic Spectrum
31 Disorders: Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis and
32 Assessment” (2003), relating to the screening and diagnosis of
33 children receiving services pursuant to the California Early
34 Intervention Services Act (Title 14 (commencing with Section
35 95000) of the Government Code), commonly known as the Early
36 Start program, who show signs and risks of autistic spectrum
37 disorders.

38 *(b) If the department is unable to directly oversee the*
39 *implementation of the best practices guidelines required pursuant*

- 1 *to subdivision (a), the department shall take reasonable steps to*
- 2 *facilitate the implementation of the guidelines.*

O