

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 10, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1050

Introduced by Senator Alquist
(Coauthors: Senators Pavley and Wolk)

February 8, 2012

An act to add and repeal Section 4643.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to autism and autism spectrum disorders.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1050, as amended, Alquist. Autism: telehealth task force.

Existing law requires the State Department of Developmental Services to develop evaluation and diagnostic procedures for the diagnosis of autism disorder and other autistic spectrum disorders, as specified. Existing law also requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene, with input from the University of California, the California State University, the department, and other appropriate entities, an advisory committee to develop recommendations identifying the means by which public and nonpublic schools, including charter schools, can better serve pupils with autism spectrum disorders and their parents.

This bill would, until January 1, 2019, require the department to establish an autism telehealth task force and identify a lead administrator to be responsible for the activities and work of the task force. The task force would be required to provide the department with recommendations in the area of telehealth services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, as specified.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (a) Telehealth is an effective mode of delivering health services
4 to underserved and isolated populations.
- 5 (b) Studies have shown that telehealth can be a valuable tool
6 for increasing the effectiveness of treatment and improving access
7 for children and young adults diagnosed with autism spectrum
8 disorders (ASD). At times, patients with ASD are not diagnosed
9 or are not treated due to the lack of adequate health services.
- 10 (c) The use and implementation of telehealth technology may
11 have the potential to revolutionize the care available to individuals
12 with ASD in a health care climate characterized by limited
13 resources by providing all of the following:
- 14 (1) Greater knowledge and information about ASD to consumers
15 and their families.
- 16 (2) Improved access to underserved communities and
17 populations.
- 18 (3) Enhanced case management.
- 19 (4) Increased coordination of care for this complex disorder.
- 20 (d) The utilization of telehealth-delivered services can help
21 achieve the goals of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable
22 Care Act that include better care, improved health outcomes, and
23 reduced per capita cost of care.
- 24 (e) By deploying telehealth to better care for children with ASD,
25 the state can make larger improvements in its health and social
26 service systems.
- 27 SEC. 2. Section 4643.4 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
28 Code, to read:
- 29 4643.4. (a) The State Department of Developmental Services
30 shall establish an autism telehealth task force.
- 31 (b) The department shall identify a public or nonprofit entity to
32 act as lead administrator to be responsible for all of the activities
33 and work of the task force, including identifying financial support
34 for the task force's costs. The public or nonprofit entity shall have
35 knowledge or experience in all of the following:

1 (1) Telehealth.

2 (2) Community-based clinical trials.

3 (3) Providing services to underserved populations.

4 (c) The lead administrator shall appoint, with the approval of
5 the department, members of the task force who have knowledge
6 or experience that includes, but is not limited to, any of the
7 following:

8 (1) The early identification of children with autism spectrum
9 disorders.

10 (2) The treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

11 (3) Early intervention services provided by regional centers,
12 school districts, and community-based services.

13 (4) Technology or telehealth in providing services to individuals
14 with autism spectrum disorders.

15 *(5) Continuity of care for individuals with autism spectrum*
16 *disorders, and, in particular, for those transitioning from*
17 *developmental centers to community placement.*

18 ~~(5)~~

19 (6) Other areas deemed necessary by the department.

20 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
21 except for appropriate travel, food, and lodging reimbursement.

22 (e) (1) The task force shall provide technical assistance and
23 recommendations in the area of telehealth services for individuals
24 with autism spectrum disorders to the department.

25 (2) (A) As part of the recommendations made pursuant to
26 paragraph (1), the task force may provide recommendations to the
27 department regarding the implementation of one or more
28 demonstration sites that promote or evaluate any of the following:

29 (i) The use of telehealth and technology to assist and improve
30 the delivery of services for individuals with ASD by regional
31 centers.

32 (ii) The use of telehealth to provide seamless integration and
33 coordination of services among regional centers, school districts,
34 community-based resources, and health care providers and
35 organizations.

36 (iii) The use of telehealth to improve the access of services for
37 individuals with ASD to underserved individuals and to reduce
38 the “digital divide” in underserved communities.

- 1 (B) Any recommendations regarding demonstration sites shall
2 include information about potential sources of funding that may
3 be available to the department to support the demonstration site.
4 ~~(e)~~
5 *(f)* No moneys from the General Fund shall be appropriated for
6 this project. The establishment and responsibilities of the task force
7 shall be contingent upon identification of appropriate and adequate
8 funding sources.
9 ~~(f)~~
10 *(g)* This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2019,
11 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
12 is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends that date.