

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Autism Spectrum Disorders

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### Overview

**This bill establishes an autism spectrum disorder task force, a 10-year autism spectrum disorder pilot program, and an autism spectrum disorders registry.**

#### Section

**1 Autism spectrum disorder.** Defines autism spectrum disorders.

**2 Autism spectrum disorder task force.**

Paragraph (a) establishes the task force within the legislative branch.

Paragraph (b) provides the composition of the task force and requires the appointments to be made by September 1, 2009.

Paragraph (c) instructs the Department of Education to provide the task force with the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder who have an individual education plan and the number who have a 504 plan. Instructs the Department of Health to provide the task force with the number of adults with an autism spectrum disorder enrolled in social service programs and the number who receive care under waiver programs.

Paragraph (d) requires the Legislative Coordinating Commission to provide administrative and fiscal services to the task force.

Paragraph (e) lists the issues that are to be examined by task force.

Paragraph (f) requires the task force to issue a report to the legislature that evaluates the current delivery of services, alternative methods of delivery, treatment protocols, barriers to the provision of care, and a summary of the providers who are qualified to treat autism spectrum disorders. Requires the task force to make recommendations to improve services and service delivery.

Paragraph (g) instructs the task force to issue its report no later than December 15, 2010.

Sunsets the task force on June 30, 2011.

Paragraph (h) provides that the task force shall elect a chair or co-chairs at the first meeting.

Paragraph (i) sets out the compensation for task force members.

Provides an effective date of July 1, 2009.

### **3 Autism spectrum disorders pilot program.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes a ten-year pilot program to serve up to 500 individuals ages 25 and under who have been medically diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Individuals from all geographic regions of the state are to be enrolled. Provides that the pilot program will pay participant costs related to treatment, therapy, and services if these costs are not covered by private or public health care insurance.

**Subd. 2. Purpose.** Provides that the program is to provide services and conduct clinical trials that will contribute to the development of evidence-based treatment, therapy, and services.

**Subd. 3. Evaluation; report.** Provides that the commissioner of human services is to develop program evaluation criteria no later than January 15, 2010, and issue a written evaluation of the pilot program by January 15 of each year, beginning January 15, 2011.

### **4 Autism spectrum disorders registry.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes an autism spectrum disorders surveillance system in the Department of Health.

**Subd. 2. Reporting.** Requires a health care professional who diagnoses any Minnesota resident with an autism spectrum disorder to report the diagnosis to the Department of Health with 30 days of the diagnosis. Instructs the commissioner to develop rules and procedures so individuals with an autism spectrum disorder, or their parents, can make a voluntary report.