S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

5069

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 10, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. BRODSKY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT authorizing a study to be conducted to determine the number of children with autism spectrum disorder

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that a study is needed that will aid school districts statewide and state officials in obtaining an accurate count of the number of children with autism spectrum disorder in individual school districts. The legislature further finds that a study is needed to calculate the costs school districts incur in order to provide students with autism spectrum disorder with a quality education. Therefore, the legislature hereby finds and declares that it is the policy of New York state to ensure that both school districts and state officials have the proper information and funding needed to assure that students with autism spectrum disorder receive a quality education.

S 2. Definition. For purposes of this act, "autism spectrum disorder" shall mean a neurobiological condition that includes autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder.

S 3. The department of education in conjunction with the department of health shall work collaboratively with school districts to compile a comprehensive annual report relating to incidences of autism spectrum disorder in school districts throughout the state. Such report shall include but not be limited to:

(a) a breakdown of the number of students who have been diagnosed or classified with autism spectrum disorder by school district. If such a breakdown shows that a particular school district has one child who has been diagnosed or classified with autism spectrum disorder such school

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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district may be aggregated with another nearby school district at the discretion of the commissioner of education; and

(b) The total amount and percentage of total budget by school district that is dedicated to children with autism spectrum disorder.

S 4. Annual report. The commissioner shall submit, on or before December first, an annual report to the governor, speaker of the assembly and temporary president of the senate.

S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.