

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1953

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to the autism detection and education program and mapping of autism locations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions (d) and (e) of section 13.42 of the mental  
2 hygiene law, as added by chapter 469 of the laws of 2016, are amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 (d) (1) There is hereby created within the board the autism detection,  
5 education and mapping program. This program is established to promote  
6 screening and detection of autism, to educate the public regarding  
7 autism, to provide counseling and referral services and to map locations  
8 of occurrence of autism.

9 (2) The program shall include the:

10 (i) establishment of a statewide public education and outreach  
11 campaign to publicize autism detection and education services, such  
12 campaign shall include: general community education, autism screening  
13 services, information on the extent of coverage for such services by  
14 health insurance, any available medical assistance program and other  
15 public and private programs.

16 (ii) provision of grants to approved organizations under subdivision  
17 (e) of this section; and

18 (iii) compilation of data concerning the autism detection, education  
19 and mapping program including mapping of the frequency of the occurrence  
20 of autism in various locations in the state and dissemination of the  
21 data to the public.

22 (e) (1) The board shall make grants within the amounts appropriated to  
23 approved organizations, as defined in paragraph two of this subdivision,  
24 for the provision of services relating to autism screening, detection  
25 and mapping as part of this program. Such services shall include but not  
26 be limited to the:

27 (i) promotion and provision of detection of autism;

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

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1 (ii) provision of counseling and information on treatment options and  
2 referral for appropriate medical treatment;

3 (iii) dissemination of information to the general public and to health  
4 care professionals concerning autism, the benefits of detection and  
5 treatment, and the availability of autism services;

6 (iv) identification of local autism screening services within the  
7 approved organization's region;

8 (v) provision of information, counseling and referral services to  
9 individuals diagnosed with autism; and

10 (vi) mapping of the frequency of the occurrence of autism in various  
11 locations of the state.

12 (2) For the purposes of this section, "approved organization" shall  
13 mean an organization approved by the board, to provide services under  
14 this subdivision. Such organizations shall include, but not be limited  
15 to, the following:

16 (i) a hospital licensed under article twenty-eight of the public  
17 health law;

18 (ii) a health maintenance organization licensed under article forty-  
19 three of the insurance law or certified under article forty-four of the  
20 public health law;

21 (iii) an organization with program expertise in autism related issues;

22 (iv) a county or city health department; or

23 (v) any combination of the above.

24 (3) The board shall develop recommendations for the implementation of  
25 autism detection, education and mapping programs by approved organiza-  
26 tions which shall ensure the following:

27 (i) integration of the approved organization with existing health care  
28 providers;

29 (ii) maximizing third party reimbursement; and

30 (iii) providing data collection for mapping of the occurrence of  
31 autism in various locations of the state.

32 (f) Such board shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings may be  
33 called by the chair. The agenda and meeting place of all regular or  
34 special meetings shall be made available to the public in advance of  
35 such meetings.

36 [~~e~~] (g) The advisory board shall submit a written report to the  
37 governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the  
38 assembly by no later than October first of the year next succeeding the  
39 effective date of this section and annually thereafter, setting forth  
40 the recommendations and activities of the council on matters within the  
41 scope of its duties as set forth in this section. Such annual report  
42 shall also include information concerning the operation of the autism  
43 detection, education and mapping program, and the experience of the  
44 program in providing detection, education and mapping of the frequency  
45 of the occurrence of autism in various locations around the state.  
46 Approved organizations shall provide such data and assessment as the  
47 board may require for such report. Such report shall also include any  
48 recommendations for additional action to respond to the high incidence  
49 of autism in this state.

50 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
51 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or  
52 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
53 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
54 on or before such effective date.