

SENATE BILL 169

P1

2lr0047

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives)**

Requested: September 23, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 8, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Autism Strategy – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the date by which the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy
4 must submit a certain annual report and repealing the requirement that the report
5 be submitted to the Secretary of Disabilities; altering the membership of the
6 Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs; requiring the Governor to
7 designate the chair of the Advisory Stakeholder Group and establishing term
8 requirements for the chair; requiring the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives,
9 rather than the Department of Disabilities, to provide staff to the Advisory
10 Stakeholder Group; and generally relating to the State Autism Strategy.

11 BY transferring

12 Article – Human Services

13 Section 7-111 and 7-112, respectively

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 to be

17 Article – State Government

18 Section 9.5-102 and 9.5-103, respectively

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2021 Replacement Volume)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – State Government
 2 Section 9.5–102(b) and (d) and 9.5–103(b)(11) and (12), (d), and (g)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2021 Replacement Volume)
 5 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

6 BY adding to
 7 Article – State Government
 8 Section 9.5–103(b)(12) and (13) and (c)
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (2021 Replacement Volume)
 11 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

12 BY repealing
 13 Article – State Government
 14 Section 9.5–103(c)
 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
 16 (2021 Replacement Volume)
 17 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 19 That Section(s) 7–111 and 7–112, respectively, of Article – Human Services of the
 20 Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 9.5–102 and 9.5–103,
 21 respectively, of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
 23 as follows:

24 Article – State Government

25 9.5–102.

26 (b) The State Coordinator for Autism Strategy, in consultation with the Advisory
 27 Stakeholder Group on Autism–Related Needs established under [§ 7–112] § 9.5–103 of
 28 this subtitle, shall:

29 (1) identify and evaluate existing public, private, and nonprofit services
 30 for individuals with autism and their families;

31 (2) on or before July 1, 2021, develop a strategic plan for addressing
 32 autism–related needs in the State, including, at a minimum, needs in the areas of
 33 employment, housing, health care, training for first responders and criminal justice
 34 professionals, and identification and intervention;

35 (3) identify national benchmarks and other performance measures to be
 36 included in the strategic plan and used in evaluating the success of the State in addressing
 37 autism–related needs; and

1 (4) monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategic plan and the
2 success of the State in addressing autism-related needs, including success in meeting
3 national benchmarks.

4 (d) (1) On or before [July 1] **DECEMBER 1** each year, beginning in [2021]
5 **2022**, the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall submit a report to [the Secretary
6 of Disabilities,] the Governor[,] and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of [the State
7 Government Article] **THIS ARTICLE**, the General Assembly on the development,
8 implementation, and effectiveness of the strategic plan required under subsection (b) of
9 this section.

10 (2) Within 30 days after a report required under paragraph (1) of this
11 subsection is submitted, the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall publish the
12 report on the [Department's] website **FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY**
13 **INITIATIVES.**

14 9.5-103.

15 (b) The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs consists of the
16 following members:

17 (11) one representative of Itineris; [and]

18 **(12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SENATE OF MARYLAND,**
19 **APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

20 **(13) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,**
21 **APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND**

22 [(12)] **(14)** the following members, appointed by the Governor:

23 (i) a school psychologist;

24 (ii) a physical therapist;

25 (iii) a pediatrician;

26 (iv) two parents of children with autism;

27 (v) two self-advocates with autism;

28 (vi) one representative of public universities in the State;

29 (vii) one representative of local public school systems in the State;

1 (viii) one representative from the business community; and

2 (ix) any additional members with expertise or experience in
3 autism-related needs as considered necessary.

4 [(c) The State Coordinator for Autism Strategy shall chair the Advisory
5 Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs.]

6 **(C) (1) (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE A CHAIR FROM AMONG
7 THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON AUTISM-RELATED
8 NEEDS.**

9 **(II) THE TERM OF THE CHAIR IS 2 YEARS.**

10 **(2) AT THE END OF A TERM, THE CHAIR:**

11 **(I) IS ELIGIBLE FOR REDESIGNATION; AND**

12 **(II) CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS
13 DESIGNATED.**

14 **(3) A CHAIR WHO IS DESIGNATED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES
15 ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS DESIGNATED.**

16 (d) The [Department of Disabilities] **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
17 INITIATIVES** shall provide staff for the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related
18 Needs.

19 (g) [(1) The Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs shall hold
20 its initial meeting on or before December 31, 2020.

21 (2) Beginning in 2021, the] **THE** Advisory Stakeholder Group on
22 Autism-Related Needs shall meet quarterly each calendar year.

23 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That the term of the initial chair
24 appointed under § 9.5-103(c) of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 2 of
25 this Act, shall begin on the effective date of this Act.

26 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2022.