

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

H. B. No. 612

**Representative Forhan
Cosponsor: Representative Gross**

A BILL

To enact sections 124.77 and 3304.25 of the Revised Code to require state officers and employees to complete annual training on engaging with individuals who are neurodivergent.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 124.77 and 3304.25 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 124.77. (A) As used in this section, "statewide elected officer" means the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state, attorney general, and treasurer of state.

(B) All of the following individuals annually shall complete the training program created under section 3304.25 of the Revised Code that covers topics on engaging with individuals who are neurodivergent, including individuals who have an autism spectrum disorder:

(1) Members of the general assembly;

(2) General assembly staff, including all officers and

<u>employees of either house of the general assembly who act on</u>	18
<u>behalf of a member of the general assembly or on behalf of a</u>	19
<u>committee or either house of the general assembly;</u>	20
<u>(3) Employees of each legislative agency;</u>	21
<u>(4) Statewide elected officers;</u>	22
<u>(5) Employees of each statewide elected officer;</u>	23
<u>(6) The head of each state agency;</u>	24
<u>(7) Employees of each state agency;</u>	25
<u>(8) The justices of the supreme court, judges of the</u>	26
<u>courts of appeals, judges of the courts of common pleas, judges</u>	27
<u>of the municipal courts, and judges of the county courts;</u>	28
<u>(9) Employees of each court and any judicial agency.</u>	29
<u>(C) The appointing authority of an employee listed under</u>	30
<u>division (B) of this section shall establish the date by which</u>	31
<u>the employee annually shall complete the training program</u>	32
<u>described under that division.</u>	33
<u>Sec. 3304.25.</u> <u>The executive director of the opportunities</u>	34
<u>for Ohioans with disabilities agency shall create a training</u>	35
<u>program that covers topics on engaging with individuals who are</u>	36
<u>neurodivergent, including individuals who have an autism</u>	37
<u>spectrum disorder. The executive director shall offer the</u>	38
<u>training program multiple times throughout a year and may make</u>	39
<u>it available through electronic means.</u>	40