

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB 135 |
| Version: | CCR |
| Author: | Sen. Justice/Rep. Steele |
| Date: | April 22, 2009 |
| Impact: | \$385,000 – 521,000 |

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Arnella Karges

The Conference Committee Substitute (CCS) for SB135, relating to autism, has the following provisions:

- establishes state recognition of national Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) with a state license, the CCS provides exemptions for human services professionals, as defined, and those individuals providing services to school districts under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);
- directs funds for training Sooner Start providers to specialize in serving children with autism spectrum disorders and authorizes Sooner Start to contract with independent providers;
- directs funds for primary care provider training for evaluations for autism diagnoses;
- establishes an applied behavior analysis treatment pilot project utilizing BCBAs for direct treatment, parental training, and supervision of those individuals in the state seeking board certification; and
- requires replication of the Early Foundations model, a program that provides intensive behavioral treatment for young children with autism.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Mark Newman

The CCR for SB 135 is new language authorizing the Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish a licensing process for Licensed Behavioral Analysts and Certified Assistant Behavioral Analysts that are certified by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board. This legislation also requires the State Department of Education use funding and deliver specialized training for providers in the Sooner Start program to develop skills necessary to treat children with autism spectrum disorder. The CCR for SB 135 requires funds be used by the University Hospitals Authority (UHA) for primary care provider evaluation training for providers in the Sooner SUCCESS program to acquire skills necessary to evaluate children with autism spectrum disorder. Another provision of this legislation requires the Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) fund and create an applied behavioral analysis research pilot project utilizing three Board certified behavioral analysts to treat children with autism, utilizing federal matching funds. The final provision of the CCR for SB 135 requires the University Hospitals Authority to establish a program modeled after Early Foundations, an outreach program that provides early intervention for children with autism, in a county where an Early Foundations program does not exist.

Fiscal Analysis

Based on information provided by OSDH, DDS, Sooner Start, Sooner SUCCESS, and Early Foundations the fiscal impact of implementing the provisions of the CCR for SB 135 will range from \$385,000 to 521,000. The itemized amounts and ranges are listed below:

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| Licensure | \$35,000 |
| Training for Sooner Start Providers | \$50,000 – 63,000 |
| Increase Sooner SUCCESS capacity | \$50,000 – 55,000 |
| ABA Research Pilot Project match | \$150,000 – 180,000, if able to obtain Medicaid |
| Early Foundations replication | \$100,000 – 188,000 |

The cost of implementing the ABA Research Pilot Project is contingent upon the ability of DDS to obtain Medicaid matching funds for 50% of the actual cost. The variations in the amounts projected by different sources are based on the cost of developing these initiatives versus continuing existing programs and differences in salaries and benefits.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

All improvements in the early detection and treatment of autism spectrum disorders are beneficial to the individual and their family. Early intervention and proper treatment will reduce costs over the long term and improve outcomes.

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director