

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 21, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 158

Introduced by Senator Correa
(Coauthor: Senator Beall)

February 1, 2013

An act to add and repeal Section 4639.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to autism services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 158, as amended, Correa. Autism services: demonstration program.

The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act authorizes the State Department of Developmental Services to contract with regional centers to provide services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism.

~~This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish, until January 1, 2019, a demonstration program that will provide technical assistance and best practices related to linguistic and cultural competency for autism services that are provided by regional centers to consumers and their families that would be known as the Regional Center Excellence in Community Autism Partnerships (RE CAP) program to implement measures in underserved communities to promote awareness and reduce the stigma associated with autism or pervasive developmental spectrum disorders, improve the early screening, diagnosis, and assessment of those disorders, and increase access to evidence-based interventions and treatments, as specified. The bill would require the department to contract with a University of California or California State University campus to serve as the coordinating center for the program. The bill would also require the~~

department to define the responsibilities of the coordinating center and to establish criteria for participation in, and guidelines for the implementation of, the program. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2018, the center, or its designee, to provide information to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the department, the Governor’s office, and participating regional centers information regarding the efficacy and outcomes of the RE CAP program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4639.8 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 4639.8. (a) A demonstration program that shall provide
4 improved services, supports, interventions, and other resources
5 to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and
6 their families, who are regional center consumers and who reside
7 in underserved communities is hereby established pursuant to this
8 section.

9 (b) The demonstration program shall be known as the Regional
10 Center Excellence in Community Autism Partnerships (RE CAP)
11 program.

12 (c) The department shall contract with a University of California
13 or California State University campus that shall serve as a
14 coordinating center to implement the RE CAP program. In
15 collaboration with the participating regional centers, the
16 coordinating center shall identify and coordinate the activities
17 and resources of other participating entities and organizations.

18 (d) The department shall do all of the following:

19 (1) Define the responsibilities of the coordinating center.

20 (2) Establish appropriate criteria and parameters by which
21 regional centers may participate in the RE CAP program.

22 (3) Establish criteria and parameters by which specific
23 geographic areas in catchment areas of participating regional
24 centers shall be designated as underserved communities.

25 (4) Establish guidelines, best practices, and technical assistance
26 by which regional centers participating in the RE CAP program
27 shall implement measures in underserved communities to
28 accomplish any of the following:

1 (A) Promote awareness and reduce the stigma associated with
2 ASD.

3 (B) Improve the early screening for ASD.

4 (C) Improve the diagnosis and assessment of ASD.

5 (D) Increase access to evidence-based interventions and
6 treatments for ASD.

7 (5) Establish indicators and outcome measures that may be
8 utilized to evaluate the efficacy of the RE CAP program.

9 (e) Participation of the regional centers shall be on a voluntary
10 basis or as deemed necessary by the department.

11 (f) (1) Funding for the RE CAP program shall be from existing
12 regional center resources in combination with additional resources
13 provided by foundations, federal funding, and other sources and
14 as allocated by the coordinating center for each of the RE CAP
15 programs. No additional state funds shall be allocated for these
16 purposes.

17 (2) The coordinating center shall implement the demonstration
18 project described in this section only to the extent that adequate
19 funding and resources are made available for the project.

20 (g) On or before January 1, 2018, the coordinating center, or
21 its designee, shall provide information to the appropriate
22 committees of the Legislature, the department, the Governor's
23 office, and participating regional centers regarding the efficacy
24 and outcomes of the RE CAP program.

25 (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2019,
26 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
27 is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends that date.

28 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
29 ~~legislation that would establish a demonstration program that will~~
30 ~~provide technical assistance and best practices related to linguistic~~
31 ~~and cultural competency for autism services that are provided by~~
32 ~~regional centers to consumers and their families.~~