

**Senator Curtis S. Bramble** proposes the following substitute bill:

**PILOT PROGRAM FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM**

**DISORDERS SERVICES**

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove**

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates a pilot program for autism spectrum disorders services in the Medicaid program; for the private sector, non-Medicaid population through the Autism Treatment Account; and for certain children of state employees administered by Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ provides a funding mechanism for the autism Medicaid waiver;
- ▶ directs the state Medicaid program to develop a Medicaid waiver to provide proven effective services for children between the ages of two to six with autism spectrum disorder;
- ▶ requires the department to convene a public process to develop the Medicaid waiver;
- ▶ requires the department to include services for children located in rural and underserved areas of the state;
- ▶ requires the department to measure the cost and the effectiveness of the treatments and services for autism spectrum disorders;



- 26           ▶ requires the department to report to the Legislative Health and Human Services  
 27 Interim Committee by November 30, 2013;
- 28           ▶ amends provisions of the Autism Treatment Account to:
- 29           • update terminology used for autism treatment options;
- 30           • amend the uses of the account to focus on evaluation and treatment of children  
 31 between the ages of two to six years old with autism spectrum disorders;
- 32           • work with telehealth services to reach children in rural and underserved areas of  
 33 the state; and
- 34           • create a mechanism to identify children qualified for services, provide and pay  
 35 for services for children, and to evaluate effectiveness of treatments; and
- 36           ▶ establishes a pilot program for autism services for certain children of state  
 37 employees administered by the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program.

38 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

39 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2011-12:

- 40           ▶ to Department of Health - Medicaid Optional Services
- 41           • from General Fund, One-time \$1,500,000 to fund autism treatment;
- 42           ▶ to Department of Human Services - Child and Family Services
- 43           • from General Fund, One-time (\$1,500,000) to fund autism treatment; and
- 44           ▶ to the Department of Health - Medicaid Optional Services
- 45           • from General Fund, One-time \$3,000,000 to fund autism treatment.

46 This bill provides intent language making certain fiscal year 2012 appropriations in the  
 47 Department of Health nonlapsing for purposes of studying children with autism  
 48 spectrum disorders.

49 This bill appropriates for fiscal year 2012-13:

- 50           ▶ to Autism ~~§~~→ **Treatment** ←~~§~~ Restricted Account
- 51           • from General Fund, One-time \$1,000,000 to fund autism treatment.
- 52           ▶ to Department of Health - Family and Preparedness
- 53           • from Autism ~~§~~→ **Treatment** ←~~§~~ Restricted Account, One-time \$1,000,000 to fund  
 53a autism  
 54 treatment.

55 **Other Special Clauses:**

56 None

57 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

58 AMENDS:

59 **26-18-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 340

60 **26-52-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 69

61 **26-52-201**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 69

62 **26-52-202**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 340

63 ENACTS:

64 **26-18-407**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

65 **26-52-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

66 **49-20-411**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



68 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

69 Section 1. Section **26-18-402** is amended to read:

70 **26-18-402. Medicaid Restricted Account.**

71 (1) There is created a restricted account in the General Fund known as the Medicaid  
72 Restricted Account.

73 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the following shall be deposited into the  
74 Medicaid Restricted Account:

75 (i) any general funds appropriated to the department for the state plan for medical  
76 assistance or for the Division of Health Care Financing that are not expended by the  
77 department in the fiscal year for which the general funds were appropriated and which are not  
78 otherwise designated as nonlapsing shall lapse into the Medicaid Restricted Account;

79 (ii) any unused state funds that are associated with the Medicaid program, as defined in  
80 Section 26-18-2, from the Department of Workforce Services and the Department of Human  
81 Services; and

82 (iii) any penalties imposed and collected under:

83 (A) Section 17B-2a-818.5;

84 (B) Section 19-1-206;

85 (C) Section 79-2-404;

86 (D) Section 63A-5-205;

87 (E) Section 63C-9-403; or

88 (F) Section 72-6-107.5.

89 (b) The account shall earn interest and all interest earned shall be deposited into the  
90 account.

91 (c) The Legislature may appropriate money in the restricted account to fund programs  
92 that expand medical assistance coverage and private health insurance plans to low income  
93 persons who have not traditionally been served by Medicaid, including the Utah Children's  
94 Health Insurance Program created in Chapter 40.

95 (3) For fiscal years 2008-09, 2009-10, [~~and~~] 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 the  
96 following funds are nonlapsing:

97 (a) any general funds appropriated to the department for the state plan for medical  
98 assistance, or for the Division of Health Care Financing that are not expended by the  
99 department in the fiscal year in which the general funds were appropriated; and

100 (b) funds described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii).

101 Section 2. Section ~~26-18-407~~ is enacted to read:

102 **26-18-407. Medicaid waiver for autism spectrum disorder.**

103 (1) For purposes of this section "autism spectrum disorder" means a pervasive  
104 developmental disorder as defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical  
105 Manual on Mental Disorders, including:

106 (a) Autistic disorder;

107 (b) Asperger's disorder; and

108 (c) pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.

109 (2) The department shall, by July 1, 2012, apply for a Medicaid waiver with the  
110 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services within the United States Department of Health  
111 and Human Services to implement an autism spectrum disorders program within the state  
112 Medicaid program.

113 (3) The autism spectrum disorders waiver program shall:

114 (a) provide services to children between the ages of two years and six years with  
115 autism spectrum disorders;

116 (b) accept applications for the program during periods of open enrollment;

117 (c) initially provide services for up to 500 children, as funding permits;

118 (d) convene a public process with the Department of Human Services to develop the

119 benefits and services to include in the autism waiver program, including:

120 (i) demonstrated effective treatments;

121 (ii) methods to engage family members in the treatment process; and

122 (iii) outreach to children in rural and underserved areas of the state; and

123 (e) include a mechanism to evaluate the cost, effectiveness, and outcomes of the  
124 different services provided as part of the autism waiver program.

125 (4) The department shall report to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Interim  
126 Committee by November 30, 2013, and prior to each November 30 thereafter while the waiver  
127 is in effect regarding:

128 (a) the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and the number of  
129 children served under the waiver;

130 (b) success involving families in supporting treatment plans for autistic children;

131 (c) the cost of the autism waiver program; and

132 (d) the outcomes and effectiveness of the services offered by the autism waiver  
133 program.

134 Section 3. Section **26-52-102** is amended to read:

135 **26-52-102. Definitions.**

136 As used in this chapter:

137 (1) "Account" means the Autism Treatment Account created in Section 26-52-201.

138 (2) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of  
139 environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially  
140 significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation,  
141 measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior  
142 that are:

143 (a) necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the  
144 functioning of an individual; and

145 (b) provided or supervised by a:

146 (i) board certified behavior analyst; or

147 (ii) a licensed psychologist with equivalent university training and supervised  
148 experience who is working toward board certification in applied behavior analysis.

149 [(2)] (3) "Autism spectrum disorder" means a pervasive developmental disorder as

150 defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual on Mental  
151 Disorders, including:

- 152 (a) Autistic disorder;
- 153 (b) Asperger's disorder; and
- 154 (c) pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.

155 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Committee" means the Autism Treatment Account Advisory Committee  
156 created under Section 26-52-202.

157 ~~[(4) "Early intensive behavior therapy" means therapy that:]~~  
 158 ~~[(a) involves intensive behavioral intervention over an extended period of time;]~~  
 159 ~~[(b) is evidence-based; and]~~  
 160 ~~[(c) is generally accepted by the medical community or the American Academy of~~  
 161 ~~Pediatrics as an effective treatment for young children with an autism spectrum disorder.]~~

162 Section 4. Section **26-52-201** is amended to read:

163 **26-52-201. Autism Treatment Account.**

164 (1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the Autism  
165 Treatment Account.

166 (2) (a) The account shall consist of:

167 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) gifts, grants, devises, donations, and bequests of real property, personal  
 168 property, or services, from any source, or any other conveyance that may be made to the  
 169 account from private sources;

170 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) interest and other earnings derived from the account money; and

171 ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) any additional amounts as appropriated by the Legislature.

172 (b) (i) For purposes of this subsection, the Affordable Care Act is as defined in Section  
173 31A-2-212.

174 (ii) If an insurer contributes to the Autism Treatment Account, for purposes of  
175 calculating an insurer's medical loss ratio under the Affordable Care Act, the insurance  
176 commissioner shall consider the contribution to the Autism Treatment Account as a claims  
177 payment by the insurer.

178 (3) (a) Except as provided under Subsection (3)(b), the executive director of the  
179 department shall be responsible for administering the account.

180 (b) The committee shall be responsible for the following actions in relation to the

181 account, consistent with the requirements of this title:

182 (i) prioritizing and allocating uses for account money, as permitted under Subsection  
183 (4);

184 (ii) determining ~~[what]~~ which providers ~~[or organizations]~~ of services for the treatment  
185 of autism spectrum disorder qualify for disbursements from the account for services rendered;  
186 and

187 (iii) authorization of all other distributions from the account, except that disbursements  
188 for expenses authorized under ~~[Subsection]~~ Subsections (6) and (7) shall also require the  
189 approval of the executive director.

190 (4) Account money may be used to:

191 (a) assist with the cost of evaluating and treating ~~[persons]~~ a child between the age of  
192 two and six years with an autism spectrum disorder; and

193 (b) provide ~~[persons]~~ a child between the age of two and six years with an autism  
194 spectrum disorder with treatments that utilize ~~[early intensive behavior therapy; and]~~ applied  
195 behavior analysis and other proven effective treatments included under Subsection  
196 26-52-202(4)(b)(ii).

197 ~~[(c) provide grants to persons or organizations for providing the services described in~~  
198 ~~Subsection (4)(a) or (b).]~~

199 (5) An individual who receives services that are paid for from the account ~~[or who~~  
200 ~~receives services through an organization or provider that receives payment from the account]~~  
201 shall:

202 (a) be a resident of Utah;

203 (b) have been diagnosed by a qualified professional as having an autism spectrum  
204 disorder;

205 (c) be ~~[younger than eight]~~ between the age of two and six years ~~[of age]~~; and

206 (d) have a need that can be met within the requirements of this ~~[title]~~ chapter.

207 (6) All actual and necessary operating expenses for the committee and staff shall be  
208 paid by the account.

209 (7) ~~[Account]~~ No more than 9% of the account money may ~~[not]~~ be used for  
210 administrative or other expenses of the Department of Health ~~[that are not normally provided~~  
211 ~~for by legislative appropriation].~~

212 (8) All interest and other earnings derived from the account money shall be deposited  
213 into the account.

214 (9) The state treasurer shall invest the money in the account under Title 51, Chapter 7,  
215 State Money Management Act.

216 Section 5. Section **26-52-202** is amended to read:

217 **26-52-202. Autism Treatment Account Advisory Committee -- Membership --**  
218 **Time limit.**

219 (1) (a) There is created an Autism Treatment Account Advisory Committee consisting  
220 of ~~[five]~~ six members appointed by the governor to two-year terms of office as follows:

221 (i) one person holding a doctorate degree who has experience in treating persons with  
222 an autism spectrum disorder;

223 (ii) one person who is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst;

224 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) one person who is a physician licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah  
225 Medical Practice Act, or Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, who has  
226 completed a residency program in pediatrics;

227 ~~[(iii)]~~ (iv) one person who is employed in the Department of Health; and

228 ~~[(iv)]~~ (v) two persons from the community who are familiar with autism spectrum  
229 disorders and their effects, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and support needs, including:

230 (A) family members of a person with an autism spectrum disorder;

231 (B) representatives of an association which advocates for persons with an autism  
232 spectrum disorder; and

233 (C) specialists or professionals who work with persons with autism spectrum disorders.

234 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection (1)(a), the governor shall, at the  
235 time of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of  
236 committee members are staggered so that approximately half of the committee is appointed  
237 every year.

238 (c) If a vacancy occurs in the committee membership for any reason, a replacement  
239 may be appointed for the unexpired term.

240 (2) The department shall provide staff support to the committee.

241 (3) (a) The committee shall elect a chair from the membership on an annual basis.

242 (b) A majority of the committee constitutes a quorum at any meeting, and, if a quorum



243 exists, the action of the majority of members present shall be the action of the committee.

244 (c) The executive director may remove a committee member:

245 (i) if the member is unable or unwilling to carry out the member's assigned  
246 responsibilities; or

247 (ii) for good cause.

248 (4) The committee may, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
249 Rulemaking Act, make rules governing the committee's activities, which rules shall:

250 (a) comply with the requirements of this title; and

251 (b) include:

252 (i) qualification criteria and procedures for selecting ~~[service and treatment providers~~  
253 ~~that receive disbursements from the account, which criteria shall give additional consideration~~  
254 ~~to providers that are willing to use low interest loans when providing services to individuals;~~  
255 ~~and] children who may qualify for assistance from the account;~~

256 (ii) qualifications, criteria, and procedures for evaluating the services and providers to  
257 include in the program, which shall include at least:

258 (A) applied behavior analysis provided by or supervised by a Board Certified Behavior  
259 Analyst or a licensed psychologist with equivalent university training and supervised  
260 experience;

261 (B) collaboration with existing tele-health networks to reach children in rural and  
262 under-served areas of the state; and

263 (C) methods to engage family members in the treatment process; and

264 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) provisions to address and avoid conflicts of interest that may arise in relation  
265 to[:] the committee's work.

266 ~~[(A) the committee's selection of providers and persons that receive referrals,~~  
267 ~~disbursements, or assistance from the account, and]~~

268 ~~[(B) other matters that may constitute a conflict of interest.]~~

269 (5) The committee shall meet as necessary to carry out its duties and shall meet upon a  
270 call of the committee chair or a call of a majority of the committee members~~[-but no more than~~  
271 ~~four times per year].~~

272 (6) The committee shall comply with the procedures and requirements of:

273 (a) Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act; and

274 (b) Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act.  
275 (7) Committee members shall receive no compensation or per diem allowance for their  
276 services.

277 (8) (a) Not later than November 30 of each year, the committee shall provide a written  
278 report summarizing the activities of the committee to:

- 279 [~~(a)~~] (i) the executive director of the department;
- 280 [~~(b)~~] (ii) the Legislature's Health and Human Services Interim Committee; and
- 281 [~~(c)~~] (iii) the Legislature's Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee.

282 (b) The report under Subsection (8)(a) shall include:

- 283 (i) the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder who are receiving  
284 services under this chapter;
- 285 (ii) the types of services provided to children under this chapter; and
- 286 (iii) results of any evaluations on the effectiveness of treatments and services provided  
287 under this chapter.

288 Section 6. Section **26-52-203** is enacted to read:

289 **26-52-203. Administration of services for eligible individuals.**

290 (1) (a) The department shall establish a mechanism to:

- 291 (i) identify the children who are eligible to receive services from the account in  
292 accordance with the standards for eligibility established in rules adopted by the committee  
293 under Subsection 26-52-202(4); and

294 (ii) review and pay for services provided to a child under this chapter.

295 (b) The department may contract with another state agency or a private entity to assist  
296 with the mechanism to identify eligible children, provide for services, and pay for services.

297 (2) The department, or the entity selected to assist the department under Subsection (1)  
298 may negotiate with providers of the services that are eligible under this chapter to maximize  
299 efficiencies and quality of services to children.

300 Section 7. Section **49-20-411** is enacted to read:

301 **49-20-411. Autism Pilot Program.**

302 (1) As used in this section:

303 (a) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of  
304 environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially

305 significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation,  
306 measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior  
307 that are:

308 (i) necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the  
309 functioning of an individual; and

310 (ii) provided or supervised by a board certified behavior analyst or a licensed  
311 psychologist with equivalent university training and supervised experience.

312 (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" means a pervasive developmental disorder, as defined  
313 by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual on Mental Disorders,  
314 including:

315 (i) autistic disorder;

316 (ii) asperger's disorder; and

317 (iii) a pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.

318 (c) "Treatment of autism spectrum disorders" means any treatment generally accepted  
319 by the medical community or the American Academy of Pediatrics as an effective treatment for  
320 an individual with an autism spectrum disorder, including applied behavior analysis.

321 (2) (a) Beginning July 1, 2012 and ending July 1, 2014, the Public Employees' Benefit  
322 and Insurance Program shall provide a pilot program for the treatment of autism spectrum  
323 disorders in accordance with Subsection (2)(b) for up to 50 children who:

324 (i) are between the age of two and six years old by July 1, 2012;

325 (ii) enroll in the pilot program on or before July 1, 2012; and

326 (iii) have a parent who is a state employee and is enrolled in a health plan that was  
327 offered under this chapter on or before January 1, 2012.

328 (b) The autism services provided in this pilot program shall include:

329 (i) diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder by a physician or qualified mental health  
330 professional, and the development of a treatment plan;

331 (ii) applied behavior analysis provided by a certified behavior analyst or someone with  
332 equivalent training for a child with an autism spectrum disorder; and

333 (iii) an annual maximum benefit of \$30,000 for autism spectrum disorder treatments  
334 with the following cost sharing from the parents of the child with autism spectrum disorder:

335 (A) the parents will pay the first \$250 of expenses for autism treatments provided by

336 the pilot program;

337 (B) the pilot program will pay 80% of the cost of the treatment after the first \$250, and  
 338 the parents will pay 20% of the cost of treatment; and

339 (C) the pilot program will pay a maximum of a \$150 per day for treatment of autism  
 340 spectrum disorder under Subsection (1)(c).

341 (3) The autism pilot program is a limited pilot to study the efficacy of providing autism  
 342 treatment and is not a mandate for coverage of autism treatment within the health plans offered  
 343 by the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program.

344 **Section 8. Appropriation.**

345 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
 346 following sums of money are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or  
 347 reduced from amounts previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated for the  
 348 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012. These are additions to any  
 349 amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2012.

350 To Department of Human Services - Child and Family Services

351 From General Fund, One-time (\$1,500,000)

352 Schedule of Programs:

353 Service Delivery (\$1,500,000)

354 To Department of Health - Medicaid Optional Services

355 From General Fund, One-time \$1,500,000

356 Schedule of Programs:

357 Other Optional Services \$1,500,000

358 To Department of Health - Medicaid Optional Services

359 From General Fund, One-time \$3,000,000

360 Schedule of Programs:

361 Other Optional Services \$3,000,000

362 The Legislature intends that the Department of Health use the appropriations of  
 363 \$3,000,000 to provide services and treatment for children with autism spectrum disorder  
 364 between the age of two to six years within Medicaid.

365 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
 366 following sums of money are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or

367 reduced from amounts previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated for the  
 368 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013. These are additions to any  
 369 amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2013.

370 To General Fund Restricted - Autism Treatment Account

371 From General Fund, One-time \$1,000,000

372 Schedule of Programs:

373 General Fund Autism ~~\$\$\$~~ Treatment ~~\$\$\$~~ Restricted Account \$1,000,000

374 To Department of Health - Family Health and Preparedness

375 From General Fund Restricted - Autism Treatment

376 Account, One-time \$1,000,000

377 Schedule of Programs:

378 Children with Special Health Care Needs \$1,000,000

379 Under Section 63J-1-603 of the Utah Code, the Legislature intends that up to  
 380 \$4,500,000 of appropriations provided for the Department of Health - Medicaid Optional  
 381 Services line item not lapse at the close of Fiscal Year 2012. The use of any nonlapsing funds  
 382 is limited to the autism waiver program to provide services and treatment for children with  
 383 autism spectrum disorder between the age of two to six years.

384 Under Section 63J-1-603 of the Utah Code, the Legislature intends that up to  
 385 \$4,500,000 of appropriations provided for the Department of Health - Medicaid Optional  
 386 Services line item not lapse at the close of Fiscal Year 2013. The use of any nonlapsing funds  
 387 is limited to the autism waiver program to provide services and treatment for children with  
 388 autism spectrum disorder between the age of two to six years.

389 Under Section 63J-1-603 of the Utah Code, the Legislature intends that the cost of  
 390 services for the autism treatment pilot program in Section 49-20-411 shall be paid for from the  
 391 surplus in the public employees' state risk pool contingency reserve.