

SENATE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Senator Heckaman

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the creation of an autism task force.

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

3 **SECTION 1. Autism task force - Appointment - Duties - Annual reports.**

4 1. The autism task force consists of the following members appointed by the
5 governor:

6 a. The state health officer, or the officer's designee;

7 b. A pediatrician with expertise in the area of autism;

8 c. A psychiatrist with expertise in the area of autism;

9 d. A psychologist with expertise in the area of autism;

10 e. A college of education faculty member with expertise in the area of autism;

11 f. An occupational therapist;

12 g. A representative of a health insurance company doing business in this state;

13 h. A representative of a licensed residential care facility for individuals with
14 autism;

15 i. A parent of a child with autism;

16 j. A family member of an adult with autism; and

17 k. A member of the legislative assembly.

18 2. The state health officer, or the officer's designee, shall serve as the chairman. The
19 task force shall meet at the call of the chairman, at least quarterly.

20 3. The task force shall examine early intervention services, family support services
21 that would enable an individual with autism to remain in the least restrictive
22 home-based or community setting, programs transitioning an individual with autism
23 from a school-based setting to adult day programs and work programs, the cost of

1 providing services, and the nature and extent of federal resources that can be
2 directed to the provision of services for individuals with autism.
3 4. The task force shall develop a state autism plan and present the plan to the
4 governor and the legislative council before July 1, 2010. Thereafter, the task force
5 shall continue to review and periodically update or otherwise amend the state plan
6 so that it best serves the needs of individuals with autism. The task force shall
7 provide an annual report to the governor and the legislative council regarding the
8 status of the state autism plan.