

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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HOUSE BILL 2523*

Short Title: Autism Committee Recommendations. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives England, Alexander (Primary Sponsors); Boylan, Glazier, McLawhorn, R. Warren, Weiss, and Wray.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A SILVER ALERT TO BE ISSUED FOR A PERSON OF
3 ANY AGE, TO AUTHORIZE AND FUND THE PRODUCTION OF AN
4 EDUCATIONAL VIDEO, AND TO STUDY THE TRAINING NEEDS OF THE
5 JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN RESPONDING TO PERSONS WITH AUTISM, AS
6 RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON AUTISM
7 SPECTRUM DISORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143B-499.8(b) reads as rewritten:

10 "(b) If the Center receives a report that involves a missing person who is believed
11 to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment, for the protection of the
12 missing person from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect, or exploitation, the
13 Center shall issue an alert providing for rapid dissemination of information statewide
14 regarding the missing person. The Center shall make every effort to disseminate the
15 information as quickly as possible when ~~the missing person is 18 years of age or older,~~
16 ~~and~~ the person's status as missing has been reported to a law enforcement agency."

17 **SECTION 2.** The UNC-CH Division TEACCH Autism Program
18 (TEACCH), in consultation with the School of Government and the Autism Society of
19 NC, shall develop a video to raise awareness of autism for those involved in
20 government and public service, including information on recognizing the signs and
21 symptoms of autism spectrum disorders, and contacts for further information on
22 appropriate responses to individuals with autism.

23 **SECTION 3.** The School of Government, in consultation with the Autism
24 Society of NC, TEACCH, and appropriate legal associations and organizations, shall
25 study the various groups in the judicial system for which additional training may be
26 necessary on the legal issues and appropriate responses to persons with autism. The
27 study shall include judges, district attorneys, defense attorneys, guardians ad litem,
28 victim witness coordinators, magistrates, juvenile court counselors, and any other group

1 in the judicial system identified as needing additional training. The School of
2 Government shall develop a proposal for the most appropriate way to deliver the
3 necessary training to each identified group and determine what funding, if any, is
4 necessary to deliver the training. The School of Government shall report its findings to
5 the Joint Study Committee on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Public Safety no later
6 than October 1, 2008.

7 **SECTION 4.** The General Assembly shall appropriate funds for the
8 2008-2009 fiscal year to implement Section 2 of this Act.

9 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.