

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1663

S.P. 545

In Senate, March 26, 1997

An Act to Ensure the Appropriate Treatment of Autism.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13023** is enacted to read:

6 **§13023. Autism intervention**

8 **1. Intervention.** The method, frequency and intensity of intervention provided by the State to an individual diagnosed with autism or an autism-related disorder must be:

10 A. Prescribed by professionals academically and clinically
12 qualified in the diagnosis and treatment of autism as
14 determined by a task force; and

16 B. Based upon scientific, peer-reviewed clinical studies
18 conducted using accepted methodology.

20 **2. Individual providing intervention.** An individual who
22 meets the required credentials as determined by a task force is
24 the only person allowed to administer prescribed intervention for
26 autism or an autism-related disorder. The individual must be
28 supervised by professionals academically and clinically qualified
30 in the treatment of autism as determined by a task force.

32 **Sec. 2. Task force.** The Commissioner of Education, with
34 assistance from the Commissioner of Human Services, shall
36 establish a task force to research and define appropriate
38 credentialing requirements for persons to provide intervention
for individuals diagnosed with autism and a system by which to
evaluate such credentials. The task force must consist of
physicians and persons who have been awarded doctoral degrees or
master's degrees, including but not limited to neurologists and
developmental pediatricians with a minimum of 5 years'
experience working with persons with autism, parents and
guardians and advocates of persons with autism. The task force
shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing
legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 118th
Legislature no later than October 1, 1998.

40 **SUMMARY**

42 This bill ensures the appropriate treatment of autism by
44 establishing guidelines concerning the method, frequency and
46 intensity of intervention that is provided to an individual. The
48 bill also requires that a task force be established to set
qualifications for persons that will provide intervention for
individuals diagnosed with autism and sets standards for the
practitioners who treat autism.