

HCS SCS SB 157 -- AUTISM

This bill requires the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Mental Health to establish programs and services for individuals diagnosed with autism in conjunction with individuals with autism, the families of persons with autism, the regional parent advisory councils, and the newly established Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism to enhance a person with autism spectrum disorders and his or her family's ability to meet the needs they identify. The committee members will be appointed by the division director and must submit an annual report to the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, the Governor, and the department and division directors.

The division director, with input from the parent advisory committee, must divide the state into at least five regions and establish autism programs and services which are responsive to the needs of persons with autism and their families consistent with contemporary and emerging best practices. Each regional project must have a regional parent advisory council with its membership and responsibilities specified in the bill.