

1 AN ACT in relation to health.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental  
5 Disabilities Administrative Act is amended by adding Section  
6 57.5 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1705/57.5 new)

8 Sec. 57.5. Autism diagnosis education program.

9 (a) Subject to appropriations, the Department shall  
10 contract to establish an autism diagnosis education program  
11 for young children. The Department shall establish the  
12 program at 3 different sites in the State. The program shall  
13 have the following goals:

14 (1) Providing, to medical professionals and others  
15 statewide, a systems development initiative that promotes  
16 best practice standards for the diagnosis and treatment  
17 planning for young children who have autism spectrum  
18 disorders, for the purpose of helping existing systems of  
19 care to build solid circles of expertise within their  
20 ranks.

21 (2) Educating medical practitioners, school  
22 personnel, day care providers, parents, and community  
23 service providers (including, but not limited to, early  
24 intervention and developmental disabilities providers)  
25 throughout the State on appropriate diagnosis and  
26 treatment of autism.

27 (3) Supporting systems of care for young children  
28 with autism spectrum disorders.

29 (4) Working together with universities and  
30 developmental disabilities providers to identify unmet  
31 needs and resources.

1           (5) Encouraging and supporting research on optional  
2           services for young children with autism spectrum  
3           disorders.

4           (b) Before January 1, 2006, the Department shall report  
5           to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the  
6           progress of the autism diagnosis education program  
7           established under this Section.

8           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
9           becoming law.