1   State of Arkansas

2   90th General Assembly

A Bill

3   Regular Session, 2015   SENATE BILL 952

4

5   By: Senators K. Ingram, U. Lindsey

6   By: Representative Lemons

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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9   AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO

10   EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF THE ARKANSAS AUTISM

11   PARTNERSHIP; TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE EARLY INTERVENTION

12   TREATMENT FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH

13   AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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17   TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN

18   SERVICES TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF THE

19   ARKANSAS AUTISM PARTNERSHIP.

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22   BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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24   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-124 is amended to read as follows:

25   20-77-124. Medicaid waiver for autism.

26   (a) As used in this section:

27   (1)(A) "Intensive early intervention individualized therapy

28   services" means intensive early intervention individualized therapy for a

29   child with a pervasive developmental disorder, including without limitation:

30   (i) Behavioral therapies such as applied behavioral

31   analysis and pivotal response training under the supervision of a behavior

32   analyst who is board-certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board;

33   (ii) Intensive speech therapy provided by a licensed

34   speech therapist; and

35   (iii) Intensive occupational therapy provided by a

36   licensed occupational therapist.

1   (B) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this
2   section, "intensive early intervention individualized therapy services" does
3   not include coverage for services to treat developmental disorders of
4   language, early onset psychosis, dementia, obsessive compulsive disorder,
5   schizoid personality disorder, avoidant personality disorder, or reactive
6   attachment disorder.

7   (C) If a child with a pervasive developmental disorder is
8   diagnosed to have one (1) or more of the conditions listed in subdivision
9   (a)(1)(B) of this section, intensive early intervention individualized
10   therapy services includes coverage only for therapy necessary to treat the
11   pervasive developmental disorder; and

12   (2) "Pervasive developmental disorders", commonly known as
13   autism spectrum disorders, means a neurobiological condition characterized by
14   severe deficits and pervasive impairment in multiple areas of development
15   diagnosed by a team evaluation including at least a licensed physician, a
16   licensed psychologist, and a licensed speech pathologist for an individual
17   with a developmental disability as defined in § 20-48-101, including without
18   limitation:

19   (A) Asperger's disorder;
20   (B) Autism;
21   (C) Pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise
22   specified;
23   (D) Rett's disorder; and
24   (E) Childhood disintegrative disorder.

25   (b)(1) The Department of Human Services shall seek a Medicaid waiver
26   from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide intensive
27   early intervention individualized therapy services to any child who has been
28   diagnosed with a pervasive developmental disorder.

29   (2)(A) The waiver shall be for children three (3) years of age
30   through ten (10) years of age.

31   (B) No A child shall not participate in the Medicaid
32   waiver under this section for more than three (3) years.

33   (C) The Medicaid waiver under this section shall not pay
34   more than fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) annually per child.

35   (3) The waiver shall seek to develop skills of children in the
36   areas of cognition, behavior, communication, and social interaction.

1   (c)(1) The department shall apply for the Medicaid waiver under this
2 section only as funding becomes available for that purpose.
3   (2) No later than January 1, 2016, the department shall apply to
4 add an additional fifty (50) eligibility slots to the Medicaid waiver for
5 autism, to the extent that appropriation and funding are available.
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