

# House File 2031 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY RANTS

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to teacher training and practitioner preparation  
2 related to autism spectrum disorders and providing an  
3 appropriation.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 5150YH 82  
6 kh/rj/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
1 2 2007, is amended to read as follows:  
1 3 c. Include in the professional education program,  
1 4 ~~preparation that contributes and require successful completion~~  
1 5 ~~prior to graduation from the program, the following:~~  
1 6 (1) ~~Preparation in recognizing the characteristics and~~  
1 7 ~~special cognitive needs relating to students with~~  
1 8 ~~disabilities, students with autism spectrum disorders, and~~  
1 9 ~~students who are gifted and talented, and in instructional~~  
1 10 ~~strategies which contribute to the education of such students~~  
1 11 ~~with disabilities and students who are gifted and talented,~~  
1 12 ~~and preparation.~~  
1 13 (2) ~~Preparation~~ in classroom management addressing  
1 14 high-risk behaviors including, but not limited to, behaviors  
1 15 related to substance abuse. ~~Preparation required under this~~  
1 16 ~~paragraph must be successfully completed before graduation~~  
1 17 ~~from the practitioner preparation program.~~  
1 18 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256B.16 AUTISM ADVISORY COUNCIL.  
1 19 1. An autism advisory council is established to advise the  
1 20 state board of education and the board of educational  
1 21 examiners concerning best practices which school districts and  
1 22 accredited nonpublic schools can utilize to better educate and  
1 23 assist students with autism spectrum disorders. The advisory  
1 24 council shall meet at least quarterly to make recommendations  
1 25 to make state programs and policies more effective in serving  
1 26 children with autism and their families. The advisory council  
1 27 shall do the following:  
1 28 a. Develop, and revise as necessary, a policy on the most  
1 29 effective manner of informing schools about the status of  
1 30 education-related research and outreach services available to  
1 31 children with autism and their families. It is the intent of  
1 32 the general assembly that schools utilize the information to  
1 33 develop education-related programs and services for children  
1 34 with autism.  
1 35 b. Create a statewide clearinghouse for information on the  
2 1 findings of education-related, research-based, recommended  
2 2 practices to support children with autism that can be  
2 3 disseminated to schools, parents, and other interested  
2 4 persons. These education-related practices shall include but  
2 5 are not limited to the early detection of, and development of  
2 6 coordinated services to, children with autism and the  
2 7 professional development of pertinent individuals providing  
2 8 such services.  
2 9 c. Study the feasibility of and need for establishing a  
2 10 program that would provide technical assistance to schools on  
2 11 all of the following subjects:  
2 12 (1) The identification and diagnosis of autism spectrum  
2 13 disorders.  
2 14 (2) The development of research-based programs that best  
2 15 serve children with autism in order for them to succeed  
2 16 academically.  
2 17 (3) The development of research-based professional  
2 18 development program standards for training teachers and  
2 19 administrators on the best practices for providing instruction

2 20 to children with autism.  
2 21 2. The advisory council shall consist of fifteen voting  
2 22 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.  
2 23 The membership shall include parents of children with autism,  
2 24 school district administrators, teachers, representatives of  
2 25 area education agencies, representatives of accredited  
2 26 nonpublic schools, autism research specialists, physicians who  
2 27 possess a background or expertise in a pertinent medical field  
2 28 such as psychiatry or behavioral science, and individuals with  
2 29 a recognized expertise in the best practices for providing  
2 30 instruction to children with autism. Voting members shall be  
2 31 appointed to three-year staggered terms, beginning and ending  
2 32 as provided in section 69.19. A member shall continue to  
2 33 serve until a successor is appointed and a vacancy shall be  
2 34 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. In addition,  
2 35 four members shall be legislators, all serving as ex officio,  
3 1 nonvoting members, with one each appointed by the speaker of  
3 2 the house of representatives, the minority leader of the house  
3 3 of representatives, the majority leader of the senate, and the  
3 4 minority leader of the senate. The director of the department  
3 5 of education and the executive director of the board of  
3 6 educational examiners, or their designees, shall also be ex  
3 7 officio, nonvoting members, and shall serve as resource  
3 8 persons to the advisory council.

3 9 3. A chairperson, vice chairperson, and other officers  
3 10 deemed necessary by the advisory council shall be appointed by  
3 11 the membership of the council. Administrative support and  
3 12 staffing for the advisory council shall be provided by the  
3 13 department of education.

3 14 4. The recommendations developed by the advisory council  
3 15 shall not be construed or applied as state-imposed standards  
3 16 or binding on any individualized education program team,  
3 17 special education official, or child with autism. This  
3 18 section shall not be construed to prescribe or define an  
3 19 appropriate educational or habilitative program for a child  
3 20 with autism.

3 21 5. By January 15, annually, the advisory council shall  
3 22 prepare and submit to the governor, the general assembly, the  
3 23 department of education, and the board of educational  
3 24 examiners a report concerning the advisory council's  
3 25 activities, findings, and recommendations.

3 26 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION == AUTISM TRAINING FOR  
3 27 TEACHERS. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
3 28 state to the department of education for the fiscal year  
3 29 beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009, the  
3 30 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be  
3 31 used for the purposes designated:

3 32 For teacher training in recognizing the characteristics and  
3 33 special cognitive needs relating to autism spectrum disorders  
3 34 in order that teachers may modify instruction appropriately  
3 35 for students with autism:

4 1 ..... \$ 200,000

4 2 EXPLANATION

4 3 This bill requires practitioner preparation programs to  
4 4 provide preparation to prospective teachers in recognizing the  
4 5 characteristics and special cognitive needs of students with  
4 6 autism, creates an autism advisory council to advise the  
4 7 department of education and the board of educational examiners  
4 8 regarding best practices school districts and accredited  
4 9 nonpublic schools can utilize to better educate and assist  
4 10 students with autism, and appropriates \$200,000 for FY  
4 11 2008=2009 to the department for teacher training in  
4 12 recognizing the characteristics and special cognitive needs  
4 13 relating to autism in order that teachers may modify  
4 14 instruction appropriately for students with autism.

4 15 The bill requires the state board of education to adopt  
4 16 rules requiring all higher education institutions providing  
4 17 practitioner preparation to include the preparation related to  
4 18 students with autism in their professional education programs  
4 19 and requires that students successfully complete the  
4 20 preparation prior to graduating from the programs.

4 21 The autism advisory council must meet at least quarterly to  
4 22 make recommendations to make state programs and policies more  
4 23 effective in serving children with autism and their families.  
4 24 The advisory council is directed to develop a policy on the  
4 25 most effective manner of informing schools about the status of  
4 26 education-related research and outreach services available to  
4 27 children with autism and their families, with the legislative  
4 28 intent that schools utilize the information to develop  
4 29 education-related programs and services for children with  
4 30 autism; create a statewide clearinghouse for education-related

4 31 autism information; and study the feasibility and need for  
4 32 establishing a program that would provide technical assistance  
4 33 concerning autism, school instruction, and teacher training to  
4 34 schools.

4 35 The advisory council consists of 15 voting members  
5 1 appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate, four  
5 2 nonvoting, ex officio members who are members of the general  
5 3 assembly, and the director of the department of education and  
5 4 the executive director of the board of educational examiners,  
5 5 or their designees, who also serve as ex officio, nonvoting  
5 6 members. Administrative support and staffing for the council  
5 7 will be provided by the department of education.

5 8 By January 15, annually, the advisory council must prepare  
5 9 and submit to the governor, the general assembly, the  
5 10 department of education, and the board of educational  
5 11 examiners a report concerning its activities, findings, and  
5 12 recommendations.

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