

House Bill 2542

Sponsored by Representatives HUDSON, NERON; Senator PATTERSON (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder and says what it needs to do. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.1).

Establishes the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Describes the membership and duties of the commission.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder is established.**

5 **(2) The commission consists of 17 members as follows:**

6 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among the members of**
7 **the Senate;**

8 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
9 **the members of the House of Representatives;**

10 **(c) The Governor shall appoint:**

11 **(A) Two members, each of whom is either a parent of an individual diagnosed with autism**
12 **spectrum disorder or an individual with autism spectrum disorder;**

13 **(B) Two members who represent health care providers who are licensed or otherwise**
14 **authorized to provide services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder;**

15 **(C) One member who represents autism or disability advocacy organizations;**

16 **(D) One member who represents the medical community in this state;**

17 **(E) One member who represents health insurers;**

18 **(F) One member who represents the mental health care community;**

19 **(G) One member who represents higher education;**

20 **(H) One member who represents a local education entity;**

21 **(I) One member who represents the Department of Education;**

22 **(J) One member who represents the Department of Human Services;**

23 **(K) One member who represents the Oregon Health Authority and who is recommended**
24 **by the Director of the Oregon Health Authority; and**

25 **(L) Two members at large who represent the public or who provide expertise helpful to**
26 **the commission, and who may include a representative of housing, early learning, first**
27 **responders or justice.**

28 **(3) The members of the commission must be residents of this state who are knowledge-**
29 **able about autism spectrum disorder or systems that serve individuals with autism spectrum**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **disorder.**

2 (4) **The term of office of each member of the commission is two years, but a member**
 3 **serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority. A member may serve up to two terms,**
 4 **except that the members described in subsection (2)(c)(I), (J) and (K) of this section may**
 5 **serve for an unlimited number of terms and may assign a representative to attend meetings**
 6 **of the commission as needed. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the appointing**
 7 **authority shall appoint a successor whose term begins on January 1 next following. A mem-**
 8 **ber is eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing au-**
 9 **thority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.**

10 (5) **The appointment of each member of the commission is subject to confirmation by the**
 11 **Senate in the manner prescribed in ORS 171.562 and 171.565.**

12 (6) **The Governor shall select one member of the commission as chairperson and another**
 13 **as vice chairperson, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of**
 14 **the functions of the offices as the commission determines. The chairperson shall establish**
 15 **an agenda for the commission and provide leadership and direction.**

16 (7) **A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the trans-**
 17 **action of business.**

18 (8) **The commission shall meet at least once every three months at a time and place de-**
 19 **termined by the chairperson or the Governor. The commission also may meet at other times**
 20 **and places specified by the call of the chairperson, the Governor or a majority of the mem-**
 21 **bers of the commission.**

22 (9) **The commission may establish subcommittees as the commission determines neces-**
 23 **sary.**

24 (10) **The Department of Education, the Department of Human Services and the Oregon**
 25 **Health Authority shall provide staff support and other support necessary to facilitate the**
 26 **duties and the activities of the commission, subject to the availability of funding.**

27 (11) **The commission may accept gifts, grants or contributions from any source. Any**
 28 **moneys received by the commission shall be deposited in the Oregon Commission on Autism**
 29 **Spectrum Disorder Account established under section 3 of this 2025 Act.**

30 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder established under**
 31 **section 1 of this 2025 Act shall continue the mission and work of the Oregon Commission on**
 32 **Autism Spectrum Disorder established by Executive Order 09-07 and continued by Executive**
 33 **Order 18-30.**

34 (2) **The Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder established under section 1**
 35 **of this 2025 Act shall:**

36 (a) **Develop, and monitor implementation of, the commission's strategic plan and incor-**
 37 **porate biennial benchmarks for this state to address the growing number of individuals with**
 38 **autism spectrum disorder who require services from one or more programs or agencies;**

39 (b) **Provide leadership and serve as a forum to establish priorities related to autism**
 40 **spectrum disorder, create performance measures, facilitate collaboration, ensure support**
 41 **and monitor outcomes;**

42 (c) **Engage key stakeholders to develop, promote and implement state plan goals and ex-**
 43 **pected outcomes, and continue expanding and strengthening state and community partner-**
 44 **ships among systems serving individuals with autism spectrum disorder;**

45 (d) **Develop and provide recommendations to the Governor for how state agencies in the**

1 long term can better integrate capacities of the agencies and communities to support indi-
2 viduals with autism spectrum disorder and their families;

3 (e) Advise the Governor and state agency directors on plan implementations that require
4 executive or agency approval and do not require legislative action;

5 (f) Provide regular updates regarding the status of strategic plan goals and outcomes to
6 the Governor's office; and

7 (g) If legislative action is needed, make recommendations for legislation.

8 (3) The commission may adopt rules to carry out its duties.

9 (4) Once every three years, the commission shall submit a report to the Governor and
10 in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the committees of the Legislative Assembly related
11 to health care. The report must include at least:

12 (a) An update on implementation and outcome priorities identified in the commission's
13 most recent strategic plan;

14 (b) Recommendations to state agencies concerning policies or procedures to improve
15 services that benefit individuals with autism spectrum disorder, or that improve coordination
16 among state agencies providing services that benefit individuals with autism spectrum dis-
17 order; and

18 (c) Any recommendations for legislation.

19 **SECTION 3.** The Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder Account is estab-
20 lished in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned
21 by the account shall be credited to the account. All moneys received by the commission shall
22 be paid into the account. Such moneys are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Com-
23 mission on Autism Spectrum Disorder established under section 1 of this 2025 Act and shall
24 be used only for the purposes of carrying out the duties of the commission specified in sec-
25 tion 2 of this 2025 Act.

26 **SECTION 4.** (1) In appointing members to the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum
27 Disorder, the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
28 resentatives shall, where feasible, appoint individuals who served as members of the Oregon
29 Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder established by Executive Order 09-07 and contin-
30 ued by Executive Order 18-30.

31 (2) Notwithstanding the term of office specified in section 1 of this 2025 Act, of the
32 members first appointed to the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder:

33 (a) Four shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2026.

34 (b) Four shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2027.

35 (c) Four shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2028.

36 (d) Five shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2029.

37 (3) The report required by section 2 of this 2025 Act is first due on or before October 30,
38 2026.

39 **SECTION 5.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
40 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
41 on its passage.