



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 269

H.P. 202

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

**An Act To Provide Training for Caregivers of Children with Autism
and Related Disorders**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STANLEY of Medway.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HARLOW of Portland,
SHERMAN of Hodgdon.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §5001, sub-§1-D** is enacted to read:

3 **1-D. Autism spectrum disorder.** "Autism spectrum disorder" means any of the
4 pervasive developmental disorders as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
5 Mental Disorders, 4th edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association,
6 including autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorder not
7 otherwise specified.

8 **Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §5440** is enacted to read:

9 **§5440. Parent and family training**

10 The department shall make available to a parent or other family member or guardian
11 of a child with autism spectrum disorder and to community providers of services for
12 children with autism spectrum disorder a 3-hour to 5-hour training course including
13 instruction on understanding the assessment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder
14 and specific disorders under that diagnosis, various techniques and skills in dealing with a
15 child with autism spectrum disorder and available community and state resources to help
16 with parenting a child with autism spectrum disorder. The department may coordinate
17 with a municipality or other governmental unit under section 5434 or a nongovernmental
18 unit under section 5435 to provide the training required under this section. The
19 department shall advertise and shall perform outreach to affected families regarding the
20 course. The department shall conduct or contract for the course to be conducted
21 regionally throughout the State on a semiannual basis.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a
24 semiannual training course regionally throughout the State for parents, family members
25 and guardians of children with autism spectrum disorder and community providers of
26 services for children with autism spectrum disorder.