

Autism (Early Identification) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Make provision about the training of teachers in relation to the early identification of autism; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Teacher training: early identification of autism

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within three months of this Act coming into force, prepare and publish statutory guidance for accredited providers in England of—
 - (a) initial teacher training, and 5
 - (b) early years initial teacher trainingin relation to the early identification of autism in children.
- (2) The guidance under subsection (1) must require accredited providers to ensure that the content, structure, delivery and assessment of their training programme provides all trainee teachers with— 10
 - (a) an awareness of the early signs of autism in children, and
 - (b) an understanding of the support needed by, and available to, children who show signs of autism.
- (3) The guidance under subsection (1) may be provided as part of a package of statutory guidance for accredited initial teacher training providers. 15
- (4) Accredited providers must have regard to guidance under subsection (1) when carrying out their duties related to initial teacher training and early years initial teacher training.

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales. 20
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Autism (Early Identification) Act 2024.

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*Presented by Duncan Baker
supported by Sir Robert Buckland,
Dame Caroline Dinenage, Sir Liam Fox,
Mr Robin Walker, Edward Timpson, Jim Shannon,
Marion Fellows, Peter Gibson, James Sunderland,
Elliot Colburn and Steve Tuckwell.*

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