

By Senator Burgess

23-01381-26

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to terminology associated with autism;
amending s. 393.063, F.S.; revising the definition of
the term "autism"; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 393.063, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

393.063 Definitions.—For the purposes of this chapter, the
term:

(5) "Autism" and "autism spectrum disorder" mean ~~means~~ a
condition as defined by the most recent edition of the
Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the
American Psychiatric Association ~~pervasive, neurologically based~~
~~developmental disability of extended duration which causes~~
~~severe learning, communication, and behavior disorders with age~~
~~of onset during infancy or childhood. Individuals with autism~~
~~exhibit impairment in reciprocal social interaction, impairment~~
~~in verbal and nonverbal communication and imaginative ability,~~
~~and a markedly restricted repertoire of activities and~~
~~interests.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.