

**By** Senator Burgess

23-01381-26

20261652

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.