



AUTISM
FOUNDATION
of OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma House Bill 3671

Authored by Representative Nicole Miller & Senator Bill Coleman

A Public Safety Initiative for Oklahomans with Autism Spectrum Disorder

WHAT WILL HB3671 DO?

- Establish a program with Service Oklahoma that will give Oklahomans diagnosed with autism the option to identify their diagnosis on their State ID or Driver's license.
- Give autistic Oklahomans the ability to voluntarily submit information into a statewide registry to assist law enforcement officers in identifying and effectively communicating with them, such as
 - a) the license plate and registration information of any motor vehicle that the person intends to operate regularly,
 - b) the emergency contact information of a person who can communicate on behalf of the person who has been diagnosed with autism and
 - c) any other information that may assist a law enforcement officer when communicating with the person.
- Provide a training program to assist law enforcement officers in effectively communicating with a person diagnosed with autism. This training shall include de-escalation methods, proper utilization of the registry, and other information that may be useful for officers during an interaction.

WHY IS HB3671 IMPORTANT?

- **1 in 36 children** and **1 in 45 adults** are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in the US. (CDC)
- Over **64,000 adults** between the ages of 18-84 are diagnosed with autism **in Oklahoma**. (NIH)
- In SFY2021, **9,575 SoonerCare members** had autism spectrum disorder. (OHCA)
- **12,730 autistic students** (pre-K-12th grade) were served **on an IEP in Oklahoma** during the 2022-2023 school year. (OSDE)
- People with disabilities are **7x more likely to have police encounters** than the general public. (FBI)
- People with I/DD (including autism) are often misjudged by police and the general public **because their disabilities are invisible**. (Bureau of Justice Assistance)
- Nearly **20% of all youth with autism report having police contact by age 21**. (Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders)
- 53% of autistic adults have had **4 or more interactions with police in their lifetime**. (International Journal of Law and Psychiatry)
- **Autistic males are twice as likely** to be stopped and questioned by police, arrested, or charged (Drexel University)
- The most commonly misunderstood responses from an autistic adult during a police interaction are **avoiding eye contact, not speaking, not responding to commands, exhibiting fight or flight responses, delayed speech/ language, and repetitive behaviors, words, or phrases**. (DOJ)
- According to research, **police officers who have more knowledge about autism feel better equipped** to interact with this population. (Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders)
- **Trained officers are less likely to use force** and feel confident in their ability to de-escalate situations. (Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law)



AUTISM FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

CALL TO ACTION

Ask the Senate Transportation & Aeronautics Committee to Vote YES on HB3671

WHAT WILL HB 3671 DO?

- Give Oklahomans with autism the option to identify their diagnosis on their State ID or Driver's license.
- Give autistic Oklahomans the ability to voluntarily add information into a statewide database, accessed only by law enforcement, to facilitate safer interactions (ex., vehicle info, emergency contact info, stress-induced behaviors, and other info deemed necessary by the ID holder).
- Provide law enforcement with training on autism and this new system.

The Senate's Transportation & Aeronautics Committee meets weekly on Tuesday at 10 am or as soon as the morning Senate session is over for that day.

If you need help finding your State Senator and House Representative, please visit <http://www.oklegislature.gov/findmylegislature.aspx>.

Public Safety Committee Members:

- Chair: Senator John Haste- john.haste@oksenate.gov
- Vice Chair: Senator Jerry Alvord- jerry.alvord@oksenate.gov
- Senator Mary Boren- mary.boren@oksenate.gov
- Senator Nathan Dahm- nathan.dahm@oksenate.gov
- Senator Chris Kidd- chris.kidd@oksenate.gov
- Senator Kevin Matthews- kevin.matthews@oksenate.gov
- Senator Joe Newhouse- joe.newhouse@oksenate.gov
- Senator Brenda Stanley- brenda.stanley@oksenate.gov
- Senator Paul Rosino- paul.rosino@oksenate.gov
- Senator Blake Stephens- blake.stephens@oksenate.gov
- Senator George Burns- george.burns@oksenate.gov
- Senator Cody Rogers- cody.rogers@oksenate.gov



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Subject Line: Voting Yes on HB3671 Can Make a Difference for Oklahomans with Autism, Law Enforcement, & First Responders

Dear Representative **[inset name above]**,

I am reaching out to urge you to vote yes on HB3671 in the Transportation and Aeronautics Committee. HB3671 will allow Oklahomans with autism the ability to add an autism identifier to their Driver's License or State ID, voluntarily add additional information about themselves in a statewide registry accessible only by law enforcement and provide training to these professionals on autism and this new system. This issue is important to me because **[add 1-3 short sentences of personal testimony]**.

Here are some specific facts that highlight the importance of HB3671:

- 1 in 36 children and 1 in 45 adults in the US have autism. (CDC)
- People with disabilities are 7x more likely to have police encounters than the general public. (FBI)
- Nearly 20% of all youth with autism report having police contact by age 21. (Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders)
- 53% of autistic adults have had 4 or more interactions with police in their lifetime. (International Journal of Law and Psychiatry)
- Officers who have more knowledge about autism feel better equipped to interact with autistic people. (Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders)
- Trained officers are less likely to use force and feel confident in their ability to de-escalate situations. (Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law)

Your support for HB3671, Oklahomans with autism, and our state's first responders and law enforcement agents is critical. Please vote YES on HB3671 in this committee!

Thank you for your service and consideration,

NAME

TITLE (if applicable)

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL