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HOUSE BILL 2463

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Roberts, Sells, O'Brien, Lias, and Haler

Prefiled 12/17/07. Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1            AN ACT Relating to community residential programs vendor rates;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 71A.10 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department of  
6 social and health services' current geographical classifications for  
7 setting vendor rates for supported living providers create a  
8 competitive disadvantage for Snohomish county providers compared to  
9 King county providers. Although King and Snohomish counties are often  
10 classified as part of the same metropolitan area for funding purposes,  
11 the current department classifications provide significantly higher  
12 rates for King county vendors. This results in significantly higher  
13 salaries for King county supported living workers. This lures  
14 Snohomish county workers to King county for the higher salaries,  
15 causing an unsustainably high turnover in Snohomish county.

16            The 2007 vendor rate increases provided a higher rate increase for  
17 King county. This exacerbated an already difficult problem. The  
18 legislature recognizes that the cost of doing business for supported

1 living providers is nearly identical in King and Snohomish counties.  
2 The legislature intends that Snohomish county supported living vendors  
3 be paid the same rate as King county supported living vendors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.10 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 For the purposes of setting vendor rates for supported living  
7 providers, the department must use the following geographic categories:

8 (1) Region 1: Snohomish and King counties;

9 (2) Region 2: Asotin, Chelan, Cowlitz, Benton, Clark, Franklin,  
10 Island, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Spokane, Thurston,  
11 Whatcom, and Yakima counties; and

12 (3) Region 3: Adams, Clallam, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield,  
13 Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln,  
14 Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Orielle, San Juan, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla  
15 Walla, and Whitman counties.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2008.

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