
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6736

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Fairley, Oemig, Delvin, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Roach, Parlette, Keiser, Kilmer, and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to lifelong learning services for individuals
2 diagnosed with severe to profound intellectual developmental
3 disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 71A.14 RCW; and creating
4 a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) A developmental disability is a natural part of human
8 experience and the presence of a developmental disability in the life
9 of a person does not diminish or alter a person's rights or opportunity
10 to participate fully in the life of the community. The legislature
11 recognizes that with the advancement and widespread availability of
12 medical, educational, and social services, people with significant,
13 multiple developmental disabilities are living longer and that
14 investing in them at every stage of life helps maintain their skills
15 and abilities and provides them the opportunity to have a meaningful
16 daily life. Providing continued learning opportunities for individuals
17 with severe and profound intellectual developmental disabilities
18 supports both the individual and helps to maintain the well-being of
19 the family; and

1 (2) Gainful employment or involvement in employment-related
2 activities is an appropriate and desired goal for adults with
3 developmental disabilities. However, for adults with severe and
4 profound developmental disabilities or adults who are nearing
5 retirement age, community access services should be available as an
6 alternative, or in addition to, employment-related services.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) The department shall adopt and implement rules that enable
10 working age adults with developmental disabilities to pursue and
11 maintain gainful employment in integrated settings. The rules must
12 provide that counties, under contract with the department and within
13 available funding, will:

14 (a) Develop and make available services that offer support for
15 working age adults who do not have a severe or profound developmental
16 disability or are not nearing retirement age to pursue or maintain
17 gainful employment, including support and technical assistance to
18 achieve integrated employment outcomes; and

19 (b) Offer persons with a severe or profound developmental
20 disability and persons nearing retirement age the option to participate
21 in employment-related activities and nonemployment-related community
22 access services. Community access services may include, but are not
23 limited to:

- 24 (i) Community participation;
- 25 (ii) Social skills;
- 26 (iii) Self-advocacy skills;
- 27 (iv) Recreational skills;
- 28 (v) Continuing education classes;
- 29 (vi) Active supervision; and
- 30 (vii) Transportation.

31 (2) To the extent funding is provided for this purpose, department
32 staff will:

33 (a) Authorize services to working age adults that support the
34 individual's ability to pursue and maintain integrated, gainful
35 employment; and

36 (b) Authorize community access services as provided in subsection

1 (1)(b) of this section for persons with severe or profound
2 developmental disabilities or adults nearing retirement age. For
3 persons with severe or profound developmental disabilities:

4 (i) Employment-related services and community access services are
5 not mutually exclusive and may be provided in conjunction with one
6 another; and

7 (ii) Persons will be given a choice of services, and the authority
8 to exercise control over the selection of employment-related and
9 community access services available to them.

10 (3) The department shall make every effort to maximize the use of
11 federal funds to fund services authorized under this section.

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