

SSB 6384 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & Human Services

ADOPTED 02/29/2012

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.12
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Clients age twenty-one and older who are receiving employment
6 services must be offered the choice to transition to a community access
7 program after nine months of enrollment in an employment program, and
8 the option to transition from a community access program to an
9 employment program at any time. Enrollment in an employment program
10 begins at the time the client is authorized to receive employment.

11 (2) Prior approval by the department shall not be required to
12 effectuate the client's choice to transition from an employment program
13 to community access services after verifying nine months of
14 participation in employment-related services.

15 (3) The department shall inform clients and their legal
16 representatives of all available options for employment and day
17 services, including the opportunity to request an exception from
18 enrollment in an employment program. Information provided to the
19 client and the client's legal representative must include the types of
20 activities each service option provides, and the amount, scope, and
21 duration of service for which the client would be eligible under each
22 service option. An individual client may be authorized for only one
23 service option, either employment services or community access
24 services. Clients may not participate in more than one of these
25 services at any given time.

26 (4) The department shall work with counties and stakeholders to
27 strengthen and expand the existing community access program, including
28 the consideration of options that allow for alternative service
29 settings outside of the client's residence. The program should

1 emphasize support for the clients so that they are able to participate
2 in activities that integrate them into their community and support
3 independent living and skills.

4 (5) The department shall develop rules to allow for an exception to
5 the requirement that a client participate in an employment program for
6 nine months prior to transitioning to a community access program."

7 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Clarifies that a client is receiving employment services at the time that he or she is authorized to receive those services.

(2) Provides that prior approval by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is not required to allow a client to transition from an employment program to a community access program after the client has completed nine months in an employment program.

(3) Requires the DSHS to inform clients and their legal representatives of the opportunity to request an exception from enrollment in an employment program if the client requests an action that is not currently permitted.

(4) Requires the DSHS to consider options which allow for alternative service settings outside of the client's residence when the DSHS works with counties and stakeholders to strengthen and expand the existing community access program.

(5) Requires the DSHS to develop rules to allow for an exception to the requirement that a client participate in an employment program for nine months prior to transitioning to a community access program.

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