
SENATE BILL 5499

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators L. Smith, Wojahn, Moyer, von Reichbauer, Erwin, Hargrove, Deccio and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/01/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancement of employment transition programs
2 for developmentally disabled high school students; adding a new section
3 to chapter 71A.12 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 43.20A RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and creating a new
5 section.

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

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

9 The legislature recognizes that developmentally disabled citizens
10 are active, involved, and contributing community members. The
11 legislature finds that scarce resources limit the state's ability to
12 meet the needs of all unserved developmentally disabled citizens. Due
13 to this limited resource availability, developmentally disabled high
14 school graduates and other adults are often placed on a waiting list
15 for residential services, employment services, or other appropriate day
16 programs. Placement on waiting lists and the resulting postponement
17 cause developmentally disabled high school graduates and other adults
18 to experience a deterioration in life and work skills. The legislature
19 declares that current waiting lists limit the unserved developmentally

1 disabled citizen's immense potential for contribution to their
2 community.

3 Effective July 1, 1994, the legislature intends to expand services
4 through the regional disabilities employment function in order to
5 promote an effective transition from school to employment or other
6 community activities for developmentally disabled secondary school
7 students within available resources.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The secretary shall establish a regional disabilities employment
11 function that shall provide services to promote and enhance effective
12 transition from educational or treatment programs to employment for
13 persons with functional limitations, including mental illness,
14 developmental disabilities, as defined in RCW 71A.10.020, and traumatic
15 brain injuries. The regional disabilities employment function shall
16 also enhance the use of alternative resources such as social security
17 work incentives and natural supports and promote competitive,
18 integrated employment opportunities in both the public and private
19 sector.

20 The regional disabilities employment function shall: (1) Develop
21 a package of incentives, offered by application to interested local
22 school districts, that enhance the disabled student's transition from
23 school to work. The incentives may include, but are not limited to,
24 technical assistance and training for teachers or staff, curriculum
25 development, and other measures necessary to promote flexible teaching
26 and educational practices that support the transition to integrated,
27 competitive, and continuing employment; and (2) collaborate with
28 businesses, government agencies, local schools, postsecondary
29 educational institutions, regional support networks, developmental
30 disabilities boards, or other relevant county authorities to develop
31 and encourage collaborative community linkages and partnerships that
32 create placement opportunities, provide mentors and prepare
33 functionally disabled citizens for the transition from school or
34 treatment programs to work.

35 The secretary shall contract for this function on a competitive
36 basis from a list provided by the regional disabilities employment
37 advisory councils under section 3 of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The secretary shall appoint regional disabilities employment
4 advisory councils to provide oversight to regional disabilities
5 employment function contractors under section 2 of this act. Advisory
6 councils shall use a competitive applications process to develop a list
7 of potential regional disabilities employment function contractors from
8 existing community organizations such as individuals, firms, nonprofit
9 organizations, county authorities, or other programs demonstrating
10 proven expertise in supported employment and a willingness to
11 collaborate with county authorities, regional support networks,
12 schools, and other involved parties. Advisory councils shall plan for
13 the services and community options provided by the regional
14 disabilities employment function contractor under section 2 of this
15 act.

16 (2) Members of the advisory council shall include but not be
17 limited to:

18 (a) Developmentally disabled, traumatically brain injured, or
19 mentally ill individuals or their parents;

20 (b) Local secondary school representatives including certificated,
21 administrative, and instructional staff;

22 (c) Representatives of postsecondary educational institutions;

23 (d) Representatives of regional support networks, developmental
24 disabilities boards, and other relevant county authorities or public
25 agencies; and

26 (e) Representatives of local businesses and community
27 organizations.

28 (3) The advisory council shall consist of not more than twenty
29 members.

30 (4) Members shall be appointed for terms of three years and until
31 their successors are appointed and qualified.

32 (5) The members of regional advisory councils shall not be
33 compensated for the performance of their duties as members of the
34 council, but may be paid subsistence rates and mileage in the amounts
35 prescribed by RCW 42.24.090.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The individual education plan for a student with development
2 disabilities as defined under RCW 71A.10.020 shall include transition
3 services beginning not later than when the student reaches age sixteen.
4 The portion of the individual education plan regarding transition
5 services shall be reviewed annually. The plan for transition services
6 shall be developed in conjunction with a regional coordinator of
7 transitional services for developmentally disabled persons, if any. To
8 the extent consistent with an appropriate education for the student,
9 preference shall be given to providing transitional services in a
10 community setting, to the preferences of parents and guardians, and to
11 the student's occupational preferences and interests.

12 (2) If available and if consistent with an appropriate education
13 for the student and with subsection (1) of this section, a school
14 district, a group of school districts, or special education
15 cooperatives shall contract for the provision of transition services
16 through a regional coordinator of transition services for
17 developmentally disabled persons.

18 (3) As used in this section, transition services means a
19 coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an
20 outcome-oriented process, that promotes movement from school to
21 postschool activities, including postsecondary education, vocational
22 education and training, integrated employment including supported
23 employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent
24 living, or community participation.

25 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules as
26 needed to implement this section. These rules are in addition to the
27 rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction to provide
28 for transition services for students who are not developmentally
29 disabled but have other handicapping conditions.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
31 act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June 30,
32 1993, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and
33 void.

--- END ---