
SENATE BILL 5201

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Darneille, and Zeiger

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to individuals receiving both employment and
2 community access services; and amending RCW 71A.12.290.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71A.12.290 and 2012 c 49 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

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

17 (3)) Clients of the department age twenty-one and older must
18 have access to both employment services and community access services
19 that are person-centered and appropriate for the needs of the
20 individual client. Services may include a variety of supports and
21 providers that will enable individuals to have greater access to

1 their community, regardless of the degree of each client's
2 disability. Clients must have access to a schedule of twenty or more
3 hours of participation in the community per week, actual hours based
4 on each client's person-centered plan.

5 (2) The department shall inform clients and their legal
6 representatives of all available options for employment and day
7 services(~~(, including the opportunity to request an exception from~~
8 ~~enrollment in an employment program)~~). Information provided to the
9 client and the client's legal representative must include the types
10 of activities each service option provides, and the amount, scope,
11 and duration of service for which the client would be eligible under
12 each service option. (~~An individual client may be authorized for~~
13 ~~only one service option, either employment services or community~~
14 ~~access services. Clients may not participate in more than one of~~
15 ~~these services at any given time.~~

16 ~~(4))~~ (3) The department shall work with counties and
17 stakeholders to strengthen and expand (~~the existing community access~~
18 ~~program, including the consideration of options that allow for~~
19 ~~alternative service settings outside of the client's residence. The~~
20 ~~program should emphasize support for the clients so that they are~~
21 ~~able to participate in activities that integrate them into their~~
22 ~~community and support independent living and skills.~~

23 ~~(5) The department shall develop rules to allow for an exception~~
24 ~~to the requirement that a client participate in an employment program~~
25 ~~for nine months prior to transitioning to a community access~~
26 ~~program)) employment services and other community access services.~~
27 Community access services should emphasize supports and activities
28 that increase community involvement, maintain or improve skills and
29 independence, and meet the diversity of person-centered needs.

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