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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6126**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Boehnke, Frame, Wellman, Trudeau, Nobles, Conway, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lovick, Nguyen, Randall, Saldaña, Valdez, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access to respite care for those  
2 with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their caregivers;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 71A.12 RCW; and creating a new  
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that respite care is  
7 an essential component of waiver services as it gives much needed  
8 breaks to the main caregiver and to the person being cared for with  
9 intellectual or developmental disabilities. Respite care is a popular  
10 service with a high usage rate, but many people need more respite  
11 care in order to live independently in the community and main  
12 caregivers need breaks from caregiving.

13 The legislature declares that given the fundamental importance of  
14 respite care to both the caregiver and the person being cared for, in  
15 addition to the respite care currently offered, the department of  
16 social and health services shall add respite care to the aggregate  
17 portion of the basic plus and children's intensive in-home behavioral  
18 support waiver service so that aggregate funds can be accessed for  
19 respite care without prior administrative approval once the annual  
20 assessed hours have been exhausted.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 71A.12  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1)    The department shall provide respite care as part of the  
4    aggregate services available under both the basic plus waiver and the  
5    children's intensive in-home behavioral support waiver.

6        (2)    The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement  
7    subsection (1) of this section.

8        (3)    By July 1, 2025, the department shall submit a waiver  
9    amendment to the centers for medicare and medicaid services.

10       (4)    The department shall provide information to eligible clients  
11    in multiple formats about tracking the use of respite hours as  
12    aggregate services.

13       (5)    If the waiver amendment is not approved, the department shall  
14    notify the appropriate committees of the legislature.

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