
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5780

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators L. Smith, Wojahn, Niemi, Johnson, West, Thorsness, von Reichbauer, L. Kreidler and Craswell).

Read first time March 11, 1991.

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

1 programs. Waiting lists cause developmentally disabled high school
2 graduates and other adults to experience a deterioration in life and
3 work skills. The legislature declares that current waiting lists limit
4 the unserved developmentally disabled citizen's immense potential for
5 contribution to their community.

6 Effective July 1, 1992, the legislature intends to expand services
7 through the regional disabilities employment function in order to
8 promote an effective transition from school to employment or other
9 community activities for developmentally disabled secondary school
10 students within available resources.

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

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

23 The regional disabilities employment function shall: (1) Develop
24 a package of incentives, offered by application to interested local
25 school districts, that enhance the disabled student's transition from
26 school to work. The incentives may include, but are not limited to,
27 technical assistance and training for teachers or staff, curriculum
28 development, and other measures necessary to promote flexible teaching
29 and educational practices that support the transition to integrated,

1 competitive, and continuing employment; and (2) collaborate with
2 businesses, government agencies, local schools, postsecondary
3 educational institutions, regional support networks, developmental
4 disabilities boards, or other relevant county authorities to develop
5 and encourage collaborative community linkages and partnerships that
6 create placement opportunities, provide mentors and prepare
7 functionally disabled citizens for the transition from school or
8 treatment programs to work.

9 The secretary shall contract for this function on a competitive
10 basis from a list provided by the regional disabilities employment
11 advisory councils pursuant to section 3 of this act.

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

14 (1) The secretary shall appoint regional disabilities employment
15 advisory councils to provide oversight to regional disabilities
16 employment function contractors pursuant to section 2 of this act.
17 Advisory councils shall use a competitive applications process to
18 develop a list of potential regional disabilities employment function
19 contractors from existing community organizations such as individuals,
20 firms, nonprofit organizations, county authorities, or other programs
21 demonstrating proven expertise in supported employment and a
22 willingness to collaborate with county authorities, regional support
23 networks, schools, and other involved parties. Advisory councils shall
24 plan for the services and community options provided by the regional
25 disabilities employment function contractor pursuant to section 2 of
26 this act.

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

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

3 (b) Local secondary school representatives including certificated,
4 administrative, and instructional staff;

5 (c) Representatives of postsecondary educational institutions;

6 (d) Representatives of regional support networks, developmental
7 disabilities boards, and other relevant county authorities or public
8 agencies; and

9 (e) Representatives of local businesses and community
10 organizations.

11 (3) The advisory council shall consist of not more than twenty
12 members.

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

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

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

21 (1) The individual education plan for a student with development
22 disabilities as defined under RCW 71A.10.020 shall include transition
23 services beginning not later than when the student reaches age sixteen.
24 The portion of the individual education plan regarding transition
25 services shall be reviewed annually. The plan for transition services
26 shall be developed in conjunction with a regional coordinator of
27 transitional services for developmentally disabled persons, if any. To
28 the extent consistent with an appropriate education for the student,
29 preference shall be given to providing transitional services in a

1 community setting, to the preferences of parents and guardians, and to
2 the student's occupational preferences and interests.

3 (2) If available and if consistent with an appropriate education
4 for the student and with subsection (1) of this section, a school
5 district, a group of school districts, or special education
6 cooperatives shall contract for the provision of transition services
7 through a regional coordinator of transition services for
8 developmentally disabled persons.

9 (3) As used in this section, transition services means a
10 coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an
11 outcome-oriented process, that promotes movement from school to
12 postschool activities, including postsecondary education, vocational
13 education and training, integrated employment including supported
14 employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent
15 living, or community participation.

16 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules as
17 needed to implement this section. These rules are in addition to the
18 rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction to provide
19 for transition services for students who are not developmentally
20 disabled but have other handicapping conditions.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
22 this act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June
23 30, 1991, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and
24 void.