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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5780

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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 with existing community organizations such as individuals, firms,  
11 nonprofit organizations, county authorities, or other programs  
12 demonstrating proven expertise in supported employment and a  
13 willingness to collaborate with county authorities, regional support  
14 networks, schools, and other involved parties.

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

17 (1) The secretary shall appoint regional disabilities employment  
18 advisory councils to provide oversight to regional disabilities  
19 employment function contractors pursuant to section 2 of this act.  
20 Advisory councils shall participate in the selection of contractors and  
21 may plan for the services and community options provided by the  
22 regional disabilities employment function contractors pursuant to  
23 section 2 of this act.

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

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

28 (b) Local secondary school representatives including certificated,  
29 administrative, and instructional staff;

1 (c) Representatives of postsecondary educational institutions;

2 (d) Representatives of regional support networks, developmental  
3 disabilities boards, and other relevant county authorities or public  
4 agencies; and

5 (e) Representatives of local businesses and community  
6 organizations.

7 (3) The advisory council shall consist of not more than twenty  
8 members.

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

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

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

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

28 (2) If available and if consistent with an appropriate education  
29 for the student and with subsection (1) of this section, a school

1 district, a group of school districts, or special education  
2 cooperatives shall contract for the provision of transition services  
3 through a regional coordinator of transition services for  
4 developmentally disabled persons.

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

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

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
18 this act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June  
19 30, 1991, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and  
20 void.