
SENATE BILL 5780

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators L. Smith, Wojahn, Niemi, Johnson, West, Thorsness, von Reichbauer, L. Kreidler and Craswell.

Read first time February 20, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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 a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; making appropriations;
5 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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, 1991, the legislature intends to expand services
7 to developmentally disabled secondary school graduates within available
8 resources.

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

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

1 disabilities boards, or other relevant county authorities to develop
2 and encourage collaborative community linkages and partnerships that
3 create placement opportunities, provide mentors and prepare
4 functionally disabled citizens for the transition from school or
5 treatment programs to work.

6 The secretary shall contract for this function on a competitive
7 basis with existing community organizations such as individuals, firms,
8 nonprofit organizations, county authorities, or other programs
9 demonstrating proven expertise in supported employment and a
10 willingness to collaborate with county authorities, regional support
11 networks, schools, and other involved parties.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 An appropriate educational program for all handicapped students age
15 fifteen or older shall include the development of life and vocational
16 skills necessary to achieve appropriate involvement in employment
17 and/or community opportunities. The parent or guardian shall be
18 involved in the selection of appropriate employment and vocational
19 opportunities.

20 The school, at the direction of the parent or guardian, shall
21 provide an amount equivalent to the portion of state funds generated by
22 the average handicapped student for the purposes of financing and
23 contracting with parents and the regional disabilities employment
24 function contractor pursuant to section 2 of this act to secure
25 appropriate employment and/or community opportunities for handicapped
26 students outside of the school setting.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two million four hundred
28 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is

1 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
2 fund to the department of social and health services for the purposes
3 of contracting for the regional disabilities employment function.
4 Regional disabilities employment contractors shall place equal emphasis
5 on the development of incentive packages for local school districts and
6 building community partnerships and connections pursuant to section 2
7 of this act.

8 The sum of dollars as appropriated in the budget act,
9 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
10 biennium ending June 30, 1993, for the purposes of providing supported
11 employment placement, training, and ongoing support services to at
12 least five hundred sixty developmentally or functionally disabled
13 citizens transitioning from educational or treatment programs.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
16 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
17 effect July 1, 1991.