
SENATE BILL 6623

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, Kohl-Welles, Kline and Fairley

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to community services programs for persons with
2 developmental disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 71A.12 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that persons with
6 developmental disabilities must be given access to quality residential
7 programs that allow independent living in the communities of Washington
8 state. The inability of private community services providers to pay
9 competitive wages is threatening safety and quality of services. The
10 benchmark reimbursement rate for community residential services
11 providers is not adequate to attract and retain qualified staff and the
12 gap between the wage level of state employees in the state-operated
13 living alternatives program and private contracted community
14 residential programs is widening. To achieve community service system
15 stabilization, employees of contracted community residential programs
16 should be compensated at a level near parity with the rate paid
17 employees of state-operated living alternatives programs.

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

3 The secretary shall adopt rules to provide that certified community
4 residential programs for persons with developmental disabilities shall
5 be paid a benchmark rate for wages and benefits that amounts to no less
6 than eighty percent of the average hourly wages and benefits paid to
7 employees of the state-operated living alternatives program.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2001.

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