
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5873

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, Parlette, Prentice and Thibaudeau)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to the administration and management of services to
2 developmentally disabled individuals; amending RCW 71A.18.020; adding
3 a new section to chapter 71A.18 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends that services
6 administered to aid persons with developmental disabilities be based on
7 valid client information. The legislature recognizes that the state's
8 capacity to provide services to individuals is dependent upon good
9 business practices commensurate with the complex job of managing
10 discrete services and limited resources to a population with diverse
11 needs. The legislature finds that current systems do not allow for
12 informed authorization of services, efficient and consistent
13 eligibility determinations, complete and consistent plans of care,
14 thorough coordination of services, and the uniform application of
15 program policies. The fragmented nature of current information systems
16 at the department of social and health services does not allow
17 policymakers to obtain a clear understanding of how public resources
18 are spent.

1 By December 1, 2003, the department of social and health services
2 shall report to the legislature on the costs associated with providing
3 a consolidated and unified management information system that will
4 allow for informed authorization of services, efficient and consistent
5 eligibility determinations, complete and consistent plans of care,
6 thorough coordination of services, and uniform application of program
7 policies on behalf of clients with developmental disabilities.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.18 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The department shall develop a tool for the comprehensive
11 assessment of need for services under this title. The tool shall
12 identify any supports the individual receives from family, friends, and
13 the community, including state, local, and federal programs. The
14 comprehensive assessment tool shall be used for both children and
15 adults whose needs may evolve as they mature. The tool must include
16 the financial status of children and their family income and resources.
17 Development of a comprehensive assessment tool must be done within
18 available funds.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature recognizes that
20 developmental disabilities advocates have invaluable insights into the
21 needs of vulnerable people. The department of social and health
22 services shall consider their views when deciding on priority
23 populations in the allocation of services. The determination of
24 priorities is a demonstration that the state has limited resources and
25 that not all people who complete a comprehensive assessment will be
26 able to have all their needs met. Setting priorities is a deliberate
27 effort to make a system of service delivery equitable within funding
28 limits. The department shall report back to the legislature by
29 December 1, 2003, on categories of priority populations and the range
30 of services that may be available to different priority populations.
31 The report shall include a process for maintaining information on
32 individuals in nonpriority status.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of social and health services
34 shall convene a work group of stakeholders to develop alternatives to
35 current eligibility standards for services under Title 71A RCW. The

1 work group shall identify categories of individuals who are currently
2 eligible as developmentally disabled, but whose needs may be better
3 addressed by alternatives, including, but not limited to, other
4 programs within the department. The report shall include some estimate
5 of the number of individuals who would become reclassified under any
6 new definition of developmentally disabled, and alternatives for how
7 they might be served. The work group shall report to the legislature
8 by December 1, 2003.

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 71A.18.020 and 1988 c 176 s 601 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 The secretary may provide a service to a person eligible under this
12 title if funds are available. If there is an individual service plan,
13 the secretary shall consider the need for services as provided in that
14 plan. Limitations in funding may be the basis for denying services to
15 a person with a developmental disability not enrolled in a federal
16 medicaid waiver program, and limitations in funding may be the basis
17 for denying nonwaiver services to a person with a developmental
18 disability enrolled in a federal medicaid waiver program. The specific
19 provisions of the federal medicaid waiver control whether limitation in
20 funding is permitted as a basis for denial of services.

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