
HOUSE BILL 2279

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Farivar, Couture, Kloba, Taylor, Cheney, Peterson, Caldier, Barnard, Simmons, and Macri

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to utilization of developmental disabilities
2 waivers; adding new sections to chapter 71A.10 RCW; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.10
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 When enrolling eligible clients in open home and community-based
8 services waiver slots and for purposes of determining access to
9 specific waiver services, to the extent consistent with federal law
10 and federal funding requirements, the administration shall prioritize
11 clients in the following populations in addition to any other
12 statutorily prioritized populations:

13 (1) Persons with developmental disabilities who are age 45 and
14 older;

15 (2) Persons with developmental disabilities who, within the
16 previous six months, have remained in a hospital without medical
17 necessity due to lack of availability of community-based services and
18 supports; and

19 (3) Persons who are discharging from residential habilitation
20 centers.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.10
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 By July 1, 2027, the administration shall, within existing
4 resources:

5 (1) Enroll eligible clients in unused home and community-based
6 services waiver slots so that all available waiver slots are fully
7 utilized; and

8 (2) Expand waiver service provider capacity so that each client
9 enrolled in a home and community-based services waiver has the
10 opportunity to participate in the full array of services available
11 through the waiver.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.10
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) By October 1, 2024, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
15 administration shall report to the legislature with the following
16 information:

17 (a) Current home and community-based services waiver utilization
18 and the number of unused waiver slots for each type of waiver;

19 (b) Services that are authorized under each home and
20 community-based services waiver, but that have inadequate provider
21 capacity to enable every person on the waiver who wishes to access
22 the services to do so; and

23 (c) A plan to achieve full utilization of home and
24 community-based services waivers and full access to waiver services
25 by July 1, 2027, including a description of any barriers to
26 identifying eligible clients for waiver enrollment and connecting
27 enrolled clients with waiver services, as well as proposed solutions
28 to overcome those barriers, including any necessary legislative,
29 administrative, or fiscal changes.

30 (2) Beginning with a report due October 1, 2025, and annually
31 thereafter until October 1, 2027, the administration shall submit a
32 report to the legislature, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
33 detailing its progress toward meeting the full utilization
34 requirement in section 2 of this act, including updated data and
35 information as outlined in subsection (1) of this section.

36 (3) This section expires July 1, 2030.

--- END ---