
Early Learning & Human Services Committee

HB 1493

Brief Description: Concerning the age at which clients of the developmental disabilities administration may receive employment and community inclusion services.

Sponsors: Representatives Paul, Penner, Reed, Nance, Cortes, Santos and Pollet.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Decreases the age at which clients of the Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) are eligible to receive employment and community inclusion services from age 21 to age 19.
- Requires the DDA to provide employment services to clients beginning at age 19, and to determine employment service hours for clients by the assistance needed to reach employment outcomes.

Hearing Date: 2/11/25

Staff: Omeara Harrington (786-7136).

Background:

Developmental Disabilities Services.

The Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to obtain services and supports based on individual preferences, capabilities, and needs. While some DDA clients live in residential habilitation centers, an institutional setting, most clients live in the community. Home and community-based services waivers allow clients who live in community settings to

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receive optional services at the same level as they would receive in an institutional setting.

The DDA offers services under five waivers: Core, Basic Plus, Community Protection, Individual and Family Services, and Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support (CIIBS). The waiver services provided to DDA clients are designed to promote everyday activities, routines, and relationships, and may include services targeted at community integration, support services provided by contracted professionals, caregiving, and equipment, supplies, and other specialized services. DDA waiver services are eligible for federal matching funds through Medicaid.

The DDA contracts with counties to provide supported employment waiver services and community inclusion waiver services. Qualifying DDA clients are assessed a maximum number of hours for these services.

Employment Services.

Supported employment services offer intensive ongoing support with individualized assistance to help participants gain or maintain employment. The service is tailored to individual needs, interests, and abilities, and is designed to promote career development. Services are provided in individual or group settings. A DDA client is eligible for employment services if they are on the Basic Plus, Core, or Community Protection waivers, and are age 21 or older.

Community Inclusion Services.

Community inclusion services are individualized services that take place in typical, integrated community settings. The services are designed to promote skill development, independent living, and community integration as individuals learn to actively and independently engage in their communities, develop relationships, and increase independence. A DDA client is eligible to participate in community inclusion if they are age 21 or older, and are on the Basic Plus or Core waiver. Additionally, they must have participated in employment services for at least nine months, unless they are exempt from employment services or are 62 years old or older.

Transition Services.

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act makes available a free, appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities from age 3 through age 21. Services are provided to eligible students according to an Individualized Education Program. Beginning at age 14, a person may additionally receive services from the Department of Social and Health Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The DVR provides short term services to individuals who would like to work but need assistance due to disabilities. Services may, but are not required to be, part of a high school transition plan for youth with disabilities who are nearing graduation from the school system. Services may include pre-employment services, such as job exploration, self-advocacy, work-based learning, workplace readiness, and post-secondary education counseling. Additional services include assistive technology, job training, and other services related to searching for and securing employment.

The state cannot receive federal Medicaid match funding for DDA waiver services that duplicate

services provided through the educational system or the DVR.

Summary of Bill:

Clients of the Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) may access employment and community inclusion waiver services beginning at age 19.

The Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration must provide employment waiver services to clients beginning at age 19. Employment service hours must be determined by the assistance needed to reach employment outcomes and may not equal the amount of client time spent working or in employment related activities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 27, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on October 1, 2025.