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## Early Learning & Human Services Committee

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### SSB 5394

**Brief Description:** Reducing the developmental disabilities administration's no-paid services caseload services.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Robinson and Nobles; by request of Office of Financial Management).

#### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes the Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to provide limited case resource management services for clients on the No-Paid Services caseload.
- Specifies that inactive DDA clients on the No-Paid Services caseload may not receive case resource management services.

**Hearing Date:** 3/19/25

**Staff:** Omeara Harrington (786-7136).

#### Background:

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. Clients of the DDA may receive services through the Community First Choice program under the Medicaid State Plan, through one of five DDA home and community-based services waivers, or both. The five home and community-based services waivers allow DDA

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clients who live in community settings to receive optional services at the same level the individual would receive in an institutional setting. Waiver services are designed to promote everyday activities, routines, and relationships, and may include services targeted at community integration, support services provided by contracted professionals, caregiving, equipment, supplies, and other specialized services.

Once determined eligible for DDA services, an individual may or may not request services. An individual may initiate the eligibility process without a current need for services to reduce the timeline for accessing future services when needed. A client is put on the No-Paid Services caseload when they have been determined to be eligible for DDA services, but are not receiving paid services.

Historically, the No-Paid Services caseload was managed by case managers, until this service was eliminated in 2011 due to budget constraints. In 2022, legislation was enacted requiring the DDA to hire two permanent, full-time employees to regularly review and maintain the No-Paid Services caseload, including updating the caseload to reflect a current count of eligible individuals and identifying the number of individuals contacted who are interested in receiving a DDA paid service immediately or within the next year. Additionally, the DDA is required to provide clients on the No-Paid Services caseload with case resource management services. The case resource managers are required to contact and respond to clients to discuss their service needs and explain the service options available through the Department of Social and Health Services or other community resources.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) may provide limited case resource management services to clients on the No-Paid Services caseload. Contacting clients is removed from case resource manager duties. Inactive clients on the No-Paid Services caseload may not receive case resource management services.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on March 12, 2025.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.