

---

**SENATE BILL 5681**

---

**State of Washington**                      **69th Legislature**                      **2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Cortes, Frame, Hasegawa, MacEwen, Nobles, and Valdez

Read first time 02/06/25. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1            AN ACT Relating to the age at which clients of the developmental  
2 disabilities administration may receive employment and community  
3 inclusion services; amending RCW 71A.12.290; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 71A.12 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

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

8            (1) The department shall provide employment services to clients  
9 beginning at age 19.

10           (2) Employment service hours for clients of the department must  
11 be determined by the assistance needed to reach employment outcomes  
12 as described in rule and may not equal the amount of client time  
13 spent working or in employment-related activities.

14           (3) The department shall develop rules and take other necessary  
15 actions to implement this section.

16           **Sec. 2.**    RCW 71A.12.290 and 2022 c 142 s 2 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18           (1) Clients age ((21)) 19 and older who are receiving employment  
19 services must be offered the choice to transition to a community  
20 ((access)) inclusion program after nine months of enrollment in an

1 employment program, and the option to transition from a community  
2 ((~~access~~)) inclusion program to an employment program at any time.  
3 Enrollment in an employment program begins at the time the client is  
4 authorized to receive employment.

5 (2) Prior approval by the department shall not be required to  
6 effectuate the client's choice to transition from an employment  
7 program to community ((~~access~~)) inclusion services after verifying  
8 nine months of participation in employment-related services.

9 (3) The department shall inform clients and their legal  
10 representatives of all available options for employment and day  
11 services, including the opportunity to request an exception from  
12 enrollment in an employment program. Information provided to the  
13 client and the client's legal representative must include the types  
14 of activities each service option provides, and the amount, scope,  
15 and duration of service for which the client would be eligible under  
16 each service option.

17 (4) The department shall work with counties and stakeholders to  
18 strengthen and expand the existing community ((~~access~~)) inclusion  
19 program, including the consideration of options that allow for  
20 alternative service settings outside of the client's residence. The  
21 program should emphasize support for the clients so that they are  
22 able to participate in activities that integrate them into their  
23 community and support independent living and skills.

24 (5) The department shall develop rules to allow for an exception  
25 to the requirement that a client participate in an employment program  
26 for nine months prior to transitioning to a community ((~~access~~))  
27 inclusion program.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect October 1, 2025.

--- END ---