
Human Services Committee

HB 2955

Brief Description: Concerning the individual and family services program.

Sponsors: Representative Cody; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modifies the criteria for eligibility for the Individual and Family Services Program from a determination based solely upon an assessment of individual need to one that includes an assessment of individual need and a family means test.

Hearing Date: 1/27/10

Staff: Linda Merelle (786-7092).

Background:

In 2007 the Legislature enacted Second Substitute Senate Bill 5467 which established the Individual and Family Services Program. This combined program replaced three existing family support programs for families with children with developmental disabilities. The following services are available under the combined program:

- respite care;
- therapies;
- architectural and vehicular modifications;
- equipment and supplies;
- specialized nutrition and clothing;
- excess medical costs not covered by another source;
- copays for medical and therapeutic services;
- transportation;
- training;
- counseling;
- behavior management;
- parent/sibling education;

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- recreational opportunities; and
- community services grants.

The eligibility to receive these services is to be determined solely by an assessment of the needs of the individual with the developmental disability.

The Department of Social and Health Services also provides, where necessary, one-time exceptional needs and emergency needs for individuals and families not receiving individual and family services annual grants to assist when there is a short-term crisis, respite care for a parent or family member in place of the parent who provides personal care in the home for an adult child with developmental disabilities, and determination of whether placement in a waiver program may be appropriate.

Summary of Bill:

The criteria for developing rules regarding the eligibility for the Individual and Family Services Program have been modified. Instead of eligibility being determined solely by an assessment of individual need, eligibility requirements will include an assessment of individual need and a family means test.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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