

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6655

As of February 15, 2000

Title: An act relating to a residential habilitation governing board.

Brief Description: Establishing a residential habilitation governing board.

Sponsors: Senators Thibaudeau, Sheahan, Roach, T. Sheldon, Deccio, B. Sheldon, Franklin, Wojahn, Winsley, Benton, Hochstatter, Morton, Patterson, Long, Costa, Prentice, McAuliffe, Stevens, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles and Oke.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/16/2000.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Jones (786-7198)

Background: The state operates five residential habilitation centers (RHCs) for persons with developmental disabilities. These facilities are run by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) which controls the medical, educational, therapeutic, and dietic treatment of all residents. Eligibility for entering into an RHC is determined by criteria set forth by the department. DSHS appoints a superintendent for each RHC.

Summary of Bill: The Residential Habilitation Board is created. All duties and responsibilities related to the management of RHCs are transferred to the board. The Governor is directed to appoint seven members, serving four-year terms. The board is directed to establish a process which would enable people who are eligible to apply directly to the board for admission to an RHC. No provisions in the act will alter existing collective bargaining agreements as they relate to RHCs. The board is directed to establish a development program to accept donations to be used for scholarships.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available

Effective Date: July 1, 2000.