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SENATE BILL 6597

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Costa and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the quality of services for persons  
2 with developmental disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 71A.12  
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that  
6 individuals with developmental disabilities who rely upon public  
7 funding receive quality services and supports. Quality services and  
8 supports promote independence and self-sufficiency, as well as healthy  
9 and safe environments. The legislature intends that people with  
10 developmental disabilities be free of abuse, neglect, and exploitation,  
11 and that the state take all measures possible to certify and train  
12 providers of supports and services in order to accomplish that goal.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.12 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) By June 30, 2003, the department of social and health services,  
16 division of developmental disabilities shall independently certify each  
17 contracted provider, including independent providers, of supports and

1 services and shall annually certify each contracted provider  
2 thereafter.

3 (a) Agencies providing residential supports shall be certified  
4 according to the residential services guidelines as updated and  
5 published by the division of developmental disabilities.

6 (b) Agencies providing employment and day programs shall be  
7 certified according to the county guidelines as updated and published  
8 by the division of developmental disabilities.

9 (c) Independent providers and individuals contracted to provide  
10 direct care shall be certified according to guidelines established by  
11 the division of developmental disabilities by December 29, 2000.

12 (2) The division of developmental disabilities shall take  
13 enforcement action on those failing to meet certification, as  
14 determined by rule.

15 (3) Certification shall include the following training standards:

16 (a) All direct care workers shall be required to complete thirty-  
17 two hours of training within one year from the implementation of these  
18 training standards, unless a direct care worker has worked in the field  
19 for a minimum of seven years and the department waives this  
20 requirement. New direct care workers are required to complete thirty-  
21 two hours of training within six months of employment, with ten hours  
22 occurring before employment.

23 (b) Annually thereafter, each direct care provider shall be  
24 required to complete ten hours of approved continuing education and  
25 training.

26 (4) The division of developmental disabilities shall develop and  
27 approve initial training and continuing education and training programs  
28 with input from an advisory committee composed of self-advocates  
29 receiving services, family members, providers, a representative of the  
30 Arc of Washington, and a representative of the developmental  
31 disabilities council.

32 (5) The division of developmental disabilities shall use its  
33 existing training and technical assistance funds for the development  
34 and provision of the initial and continuing education and training. In  
35 addition, if financial impact is greater than existing training and  
36 technical assistance funds available, provider rates may be adjusted by  
37 the department to include the costs of training and replacement staff  
38 time.

1 (6) The training standards shall take effect beginning December 31,  
2 2000.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The division of developmental disabilities  
4 shall review all of its contracted providers to determine consistency  
5 of certification and licensing across different settings and shall  
6 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,  
7 2000.

8 The review shall include recommendations to strengthen quality  
9 improvements, establish consistency, and increase enforcement  
10 authority.

11 The review shall include the participation of a representative of  
12 the developmental disabilities council, the Washington protection and  
13 advocacy system, the Arc of Washington, self-advocates and family  
14 members receiving services in different service settings, and  
15 providers.

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