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HOUSE BILL 2190

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Darneille, Morrell, O'Brien and Kenney

Read first time 02/22/2005. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1            AN ACT Relating to planning for the residential care needs of  
2 individuals with developmental disabilities; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the staff and  
5 volunteers at the state's residential habilitation centers and in  
6 community residential settings provide compassionate, skilled care to  
7 persons with developmental disabilities. The legislature also finds  
8 that nationally there has been a decline in the number of residents in  
9 states' institutions for individuals with developmental disabilities as  
10 the demand for services has shifted from institutions to community  
11 settings. In Washington state, just over one thousand one hundred  
12 residents currently live in the state's residential habilitation  
13 centers, down from a high of four thousand residents in 1967.

14            The legislature recognizes that the continuing decline in the  
15 number of residents and the capital investments required by aging  
16 facilities has resulted in increased costs to serve the residents  
17 remaining at the state's residential habilitation centers. In order to  
18 address this situation, the legislature intends to establish a

1 mechanism for determining how best to meet the residential care needs  
2 of citizens of this state with developmental disabilities.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A commission is hereby created in the  
4 governor's office to review the need for and existing capacity of  
5 residential services, including residential habilitation centers and  
6 community residential settings, that serve individuals with  
7 developmental disabilities in Washington state. The commission shall  
8 develop a plan for meeting the residential care needs of these  
9 individuals. The commission shall take into consideration the research  
10 conducted by the joint legislative audit and review committee relating  
11 to the state's residential habilitation centers.

12 (1) In developing the residential plan, the commission shall  
13 consider, at a minimum, the following factors:

14 (a) The needs of the current residents of the existing facilities;

15 (b) Staff expertise and specialization of care at existing  
16 facilities;

17 (c) Utilization level of existing residential habilitation centers;

18 (d) Capacity for growth of each of the existing residential  
19 habilitation centers and community residential facilities;

20 (e) The relative costs and benefits of serving individuals in  
21 residential habilitation centers and community residential facilities;

22 (f) The geographic factors associated with each residential  
23 habilitation center and its proximity to dense populations as well as  
24 other similar facilities; and

25 (g) Costs and savings related to the consolidation or closure, or  
26 both, of residential habilitation centers.

27 (2) The commission shall consist of eleven members as follows:

28 (a) One representative each of the governor's office, the office of  
29 financial management, the department of social and health services, and  
30 the Washington state developmental disabilities council, appointed by  
31 the governor;

32 (b) One representative of organized labor;

33 (c) One representative of an advocacy organization for residents of  
34 residential habilitation centers and their families, and one  
35 representative of community residential care providers, appointed by  
36 the governor; and

1 (d) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the  
2 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member  
3 of the majority caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the  
4 minority caucus, and two members of the senate appointed by the  
5 president of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority  
6 caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the minority caucus. The  
7 legislative members of the commission shall be ex officio, nonvoting  
8 members.

9 (3) The commission shall select a chairperson from among its  
10 members.

11 (4) Legislative members of the commission shall be reimbursed for  
12 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
13 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
14 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
15 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

16 (5) The commission shall provide its residential plan to the  
17 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by January  
18 1, 2006.

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