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**Human Services Committee**

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**HB 2463**

**Brief Description:** Concerning vendor rates for supported living providers.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Roberts, Sells, O'Brien, Lias and Haler.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Creates geographic regions for the Department of Social and Health Services to use when setting vendor rates for supported living providers.

**Hearing Date:** 1/24/08

**Staff:** Brian Considine (786-7290).

**Background:**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Supported Living Services offers instruction and support to persons with developmental disabilities who live in their own homes in the community. Clients who receive supported living services are 18 years of age or older, and they have been assessed as needing supported living services to meet their health and welfare needs.

Support services may vary from a few hours per month up to 24 hours per day of one-on-one support. Clients pay their own rent, food, and other personal expenses, and the DDD contracts with private agencies to provide supported living services. These services are also offered by the State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA) program, which is a supported living service offered by state employees.

Services provided may include: alternative living services, dental services, child development services, community access services, employment, family services, therapeutic services, nursing and/or therapeutic services.

Funding for these services come from the state's General Fund and federal funds - i.e. Medicaid. During the 2007 fiscal year, the DDD reports that it served 3,354 people, and it contracted with 141 providers.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Rates are determined for each individual client based on the number of direct care staff hours needed to meet the client's assessed needs. Staff hours are paid at a pre-determined benchmark rate specific to county categories (Metropolitan Service Areas (MSA), Non-MSA and King County). In addition to the direct staff rate, an Indirect Client Support /Administrative rate is applied. A client transportation rate is calculated, and for agencies that provide lodging for overnight staff usage, a rate for the lodging cost is included. All rates are reviewed by the Cost Reimbursement Analyst and approved by the Residential Program Manager and the Division Director.

**Summary of Bill:**

Three county categories are created for the Department of Social and Health Services to use when it establishes vendor rates for supported living providers. The regions are: King and Snohomish Counties; MSA; and Non-MSA.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 21, 2008.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2008.