

SENATE BILL REPORT

HJM 4024

As of February 22, 2010

Brief Description: Concerning a memorial petitioning for the elimination of the term "mentally retarded" in federal law.

Sponsors: Representatives Angel, Wallace, Haler and Moeller.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/13/10, 94-1; 2/13/10, 95-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/24/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: In 2004 the Legislature passed House Bill 2663 directing the Code Reviser to avoid references to certain words frequently used to describe individuals with disabilities. Some of the specific terms were disabled, developmentally disabled, mentally disabled, mentally retarded, and handicapped. The Code Reviser was directed to avoid future use of these terms and as statutes with them were under consideration to replace them with other people first terminology.

In 2009 the Legislature passed House Bill 1835 which directed the Code Reviser to replace the term mental retardation with intellectual disability in statutes, memorials, and resolutions.

Currently, legislation is under consideration in Congress that replaces the terms mental retardation and mentally retarded in federal law with intellectual disability and individuals with an intellectual disability.

Summary of Bill: The House Joint Memorial petitions the United States Congress to pass Senate Bill 2781 and the President of the United States to sign the legislation into law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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