

---

HOUSE BILL 1631

---

State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Tharinger, Johnson, Green, Harris, Cody, Riccelli, Jinkins, Morrell, Appleton, Hope, Maxwell, Pollet, Moscoso, Santos, and Ryu

Read first time 02/01/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1            AN ACT Relating to enacting planning measures to provide for the  
2 future long-term care services and supports needs of the aging  
3 population; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        The legislature makes the following  
6 findings:

7            (1) By 2030 nearly twenty percent or one out of every five people  
8 in our state will be age sixty-five or older and by 2060 the population  
9 of people who are age eighty-five or older in our state will more than  
10 triple. This will affect every area of state government;

11            (2) There is a need for increased focus and a planning to support  
12 the growing number of seniors and people with disabilities with  
13 Washington state. Planning is necessary across a broad range of policy  
14 areas including health, long-term services and supports, housing,  
15 transportation, financial security, and protections for vulnerable  
16 adults;

17            (3) To address the growing demand for long-term services and  
18 supports, Washington state must do more to leverage private resources,

1 support families so they can take care of their loved ones without  
2 having to resort to medicaid and help people plan for potential future  
3 costs;

4 (4) In the past few decades, a number of initiatives have been  
5 undertaken to reform Washington's system of supports for seniors to  
6 emphasize home and community based options. These efforts have saved  
7 millions of dollars by preventing expensive institutional placements;  
8 and

9 (5) Washington must begin planning for the future long-term  
10 services and supports needs of its residents by taking steps to grow  
11 its workforce, resources, and quality long-term services and supports,  
12 and identify alternative long-term care financing options to help  
13 families and reduce the rate of growth in medicaid.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A joint legislative executive committee  
15 on aging and disability issues is established, with members as provided  
16 in this subsection.

17 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint the chair of the  
18 senate committee with jurisdiction over long-term care policy as well  
19 as one additional member from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
20 senate;

21 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the  
22 chair of the house committee with jurisdiction over long-term care  
23 policy as well as one additional member from each of the two largest  
24 caucuses of the house of representatives;

25 (c) The governor shall appoint one member to service as a liaison  
26 to the committee;

27 (d) The secretary of the department of social and health services  
28 or his or her designee; and

29 (e) The director of the health care authority or his or her  
30 designee.

31 (2) The joint committee must be convened by September 1, 2013. At  
32 the first meeting, the members of the joint committee shall select  
33 cochairs from among the committee members. The joint committee shall  
34 establish advisory committees, consisting of at least three  
35 stakeholders and chaired by a member of the joint committee, to focus  
36 on specific topic areas. All meetings of the joint committee and the  
37 advisory committees are open to the public.

1 (3) The joint committee shall consult with the office of the  
2 insurance commissioner, the caseload forecast council, and other  
3 appropriate entities with specialized knowledge of the growing needs of  
4 the aging and disability populations.

5 (4) The joint committee shall conduct the following activities:

6 (a)(i) Establish a profile of Washington's current elderly and  
7 disabled population and its needs;

8 (ii) Establish an inventory of the services and supports currently  
9 available to the elderly and disabled, including health care providers  
10 and facilities, long-term care providers and facilities, caregiver  
11 supports, public and private financing, transportation services, and  
12 housing;

13 (iii) Assess the areas of the current system where the additional  
14 support is needed for Washington's current elderly population;

15 (b)(i) Establish a profile of Washington's expected elderly and  
16 disabled population in 2025 and evaluate its anticipated needs;

17 (ii) Establish an anticipated inventory of future services and  
18 supports that will be required to meet the needs of the elderly and  
19 disabled population in 2025;

20 (c) Develop a strategy of actions that the state may take to  
21 prepare for the future demographic trends in the elderly and disabled  
22 populations and build the necessary capacity to meet these demands,  
23 including the identification of:

24 (i) Statutory and regulatory changes to promote the most efficient  
25 use of resources, such as simplifying administrative procedures,  
26 facilitating points of entry into the long-term care services and  
27 supports system, and improving transitions between care settings;

28 (ii) Practices for promoting the use of technology, chronic care  
29 management, and disability prevention programs to maintain the  
30 independence of the elderly and disabled populations;

31 (iii) Caregiver supports;

32 (iv) Specialized resources for populations with special needs, such  
33 as chronic conditions and dementia; and

34 (v) Housing and transportation programs to help individuals who are  
35 elderly or disabled to maintain their independence.

36 (5) Staff support for the joint committee must be provided by the  
37 senate committee services, the office of program research, and the

1 office of financial management. The office of financial management  
2 shall designate staff of the department of social and health services  
3 to provide additional support to the joint committee.

4 (6) The joint committee members may be reimbursed for travel  
5 expenses as authorized under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and chapter  
6 44.04 RCW as appropriate. Advisory committee members may not receive  
7 compensation or reimbursement for travel and expenses.

8 (7) The expenses of the joint committee must be paid jointly by the  
9 senate, the house of representatives, and the office of financial  
10 management. Joint committee expenditures are subject to approval by  
11 the senate facilities and operations committee and the house of  
12 representatives executive rules committee, or their successor  
13 committees.

14 (8) The joint committee shall report its findings and  
15 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
16 legislature by December 10, 2014.

17 (9) This section expires December 15, 2014.

--- END ---