
SENATE BILL 5922

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Conway, Walsh, Keiser, Braun, Darneille, Zeiger, Becker, Hunt, Brown, Nguyen, Hasegawa, and Lovelett

Read first time 02/15/19. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to community engagement and community guide
2 services for people with developmental disabilities; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.20A RCW; creating a new section; providing an
4 effective date; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

8 (1) The goal of community engagement and community guide services
9 is to create opportunities for increased presence and participation
10 in the community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

11 (2) There is a lack of community engagement and community guide
12 service providers because current reimbursement rates are low and
13 insurance liability costs are high.

14 (3) It is the legislature's goal to continue to support the
15 current number of community engagement and community support hours
16 participants receive, and to increase the number of hours each person
17 receives over the next three biennia.

18 (4) Community engagement and community guide services may
19 include: Providing opportunities to increase the participant's
20 connection to and engagement in formal and informal community
21 supports to meet a goal identified by the participant's person-

1 centered service plan; developing creative, flexible, and supportive
2 community resources and relationships for individuals with
3 developmental disabilities; and providing skill development,
4 opportunities for socialization, and involvement in community
5 activities, organizations, groups, projects, and other resources.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
9 specific purpose:

10 (1) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2025, the
11 reimbursement rate for community engagement and community guide
12 services funded by the department's developmental disabilities
13 administration shall be increased by two percent each year.

14 (2) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2025, the number
15 of available hours for community engagement or community guide
16 services funded by the department's developmental disabilities
17 administration shall be increased by four hours per week for each
18 client receiving community engagement or community guide services.

19 (3) This section expires June 30, 2025

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
22 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
23 effect July 1, 2019.

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