
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1344

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Barnard, Cortes, Dufault, Couture, Farivar, Reed, Hill, Caldier, Taylor, Pollet, Nance, Gregerson, and Callan)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access to respite care for those
2 with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their caregivers;
3 adding a new section to chapter 71A.12 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that respite care is
7 an essential component of waiver services as it provides much needed
8 breaks to the main caregiver of a person with intellectual or
9 developmental disabilities, as well as to the person being cared for.
10 Respite care is a popular service with a high usage rate, but many
11 people need additional respite care in order to live independently in
12 the community, and their main caregivers need additional breaks from
13 caregiving.

14 The legislature therefore declares that given the fundamental
15 importance of respite care to both the caregiver and the person being
16 cared for, in addition to the respite care currently offered, respite
17 care should be added to the aggregate portion of the basic plus
18 waiver so that aggregate funds can be accessed for respite care
19 without prior administrative approval once the annual assessed hours
20 have been exhausted.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.12
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) By September 1, 2025, the department shall submit a waiver
4 amendment to the centers for medicare and medicaid services to add
5 respite care to the list of aggregate services available under the
6 basic plus waiver.

7 (2) Upon the approval from the centers for medicare and medicaid
8 services, the department shall immediately update the basic plus
9 waiver to include respite care as an aggregate service. The portion
10 of the total aggregate services budget that may be used for respite
11 care must be limited to 30 percent.

12 (3) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement the
13 requirements in this section.

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