



House Bill No. 6855

Special Act No. 23-22

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TIMELY REPAIR OF COMPLEX REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section: (1) "Complex rehabilitation technology" has the same meaning as provided in section 17b-278j of the general statutes; (2) "manufacturer" means the original equipment manufacturer of complex rehabilitation technology; (3) "authorized service provider" means a person or company authorized by a manufacturer to service or repair complex rehabilitation technology whether or not such provider is affiliated with the manufacturer; (4) "consumer" means the owner, renter or user of complex rehabilitation technology; (5) "services" means the assessment, diagnostics, maintenance or repairs performed on complex rehabilitation technology; and (6) "repair" means the completion of all services needed to return damaged complex rehabilitation technology to its original condition according to owner specifications.

(b) There is established a task force to study minimum standards for the timely repair of complex rehabilitation technology, including, but not limited to, improving timelines for assessment and repair of such technology by a manufacturer or authorized service provider upon

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notification from a consumer about the need for repairs. The task force shall:

(1) Examine and make recommendations for policy, regulations and legislation necessary to improve the independence of motion and quality of life of consumers using complex rehabilitation technology in the state;

(2) Assess barriers to timely repair of complex rehabilitation technology, including, but not limited to, recruitment and retention of staff, travel time to complete repairs, geographical locations of authorized service providers, supply chain and parts availability issues;

(3) Review how repairs for complex rehabilitation technology are paid for and by whom;

(4) Survey consumers state wide to determine scope and breadth of problems associated with timeliness and cost of complex rehabilitation technology repair and other barriers to timely repair; and

(5) Study successes and challenges experienced by other states that have policies, statutes or regulations associated with complex rehabilitation technology service and repair and make recommendations concerning adoption of similar policies, statutes and regulations in the state.

(c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two consumers appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be residents of the state who are not affiliated with any complex rehabilitation technology manufacturer or authorized service provider;

(2) Two consumers appointed by the president pro tempore of the

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Senate, who shall be residents of the state who are not employed by the state or affiliated with any complex rehabilitation technology manufacturer or authorized service provider;

(3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of a local nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting independent living centers in the state and one of whom is a complex rehabilitation technology manufacturer doing business in the state;

(4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a person with extensive experience in disability rights advocacy and one of whom shall be a person with extensive experience in disability legal policy, both of whom live and work in the state but are not employed by the state or affiliated with a complex rehabilitation technology manufacturer or authorized service provider;

(5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a national nonprofit organization of suppliers and manufacturers of complex rehabilitation technology and one of whom shall be an authorized service provider;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a complex rehabilitation technology manufacturer and one of whom shall be an authorized service provider;

(7) A representative of a private health insurance company providing coverage for complex rehabilitation technology, appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services;

(8) An assistive technology professional, appointed by the House

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chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services;

(9) The Commissioners of Aging and Disability Services, Consumer Protection, Social Services and Public Health and the Insurance Commissioner, or their designees;

(10) The House and Senate chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, or their designees; and

(11) The House and Senate ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, or their designees.

(d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to (8), inclusive, or subdivision (10) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(e) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later June 30, 2023.

(f) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than July 15, 2023.

(g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(h) Not later than February 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees

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of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, consumer protection, human services, insurance and public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or February 1, 2024, whichever is later.

Approved June 28, 2023