



**PA 24-134**—sHB 5373  
*Human Services Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES**

**SUMMARY:** This act makes various unrelated changes to human services statutes, including:

1. eliminating obsolete statutory provisions generally designating the Department of Social Services (DSS) as the lead agency for services to people with disabilities (“lead agency”) (§§ 1, 5 & 10);
2. establishing an interagency coalition to reduce silos in providing services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (§ 6); and
3. reassigning the reporting requirements for the Medicaid waiver program services for people with IDD and ASD from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and DSS, respectively (§§ 7-9).

Lastly, the act makes minor changes in several statutes to correct the calendar date when the fiscal quarter ends (§§ 2-4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**§§ 1, 5 & 10 — REPEALING DSS’S “LEAD AGENCY” STATUS**

In eliminating DSS’s designation as the lead agency for services for people with disabilities, the act removes requirements for DSS to (1) coordinate the delivery of these services by all state agencies and (2) appoint a council, which is currently inactive, to advise it in doing so. It similarly eliminates certain requirements related to DSS’s status as lead agency, including:

1. repealing obsolete statutes requiring the department to carry out a planning requirement and
2. removing prior law’s requirement for the department to develop a written summary of all state programs for people with disabilities and distribute copies to all state agencies providing services to people with disabilities.

In doing so, the act also eliminates prior law’s requirement that each state agency providing these services give each person that applies a copy of this summary.

**§ 6 — INTERAGENCY COALITION**

The act requires the OPM secretary to establish an interagency coalition tasked with developing strategies to reduce silos in providing services to people with IDD and ASD. By law, DDS is the lead agency for people with IDD and DSS is the lead

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agency for people with ASD. Under the act, the coalition must include representatives from both agencies in these capacities. The coalition must meet at least quarterly and report to the Human Services and Public Health committees on its progress in reducing service silos by July 1, 2025.

### §§ 7-9 — REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The act reassigns, from OPM to DDS and DSS, certain reporting requirements for Medicaid waiver programs for people with disabilities.

#### *Medicaid Waiver Programs for People With IDD Other Than ASD*

Existing law requires the DDS commissioner, in consultation with the DSS commissioner and OPM secretary, to reduce waiting lists for Medicaid waiver service programs for people with IDD. Prior law required an OPM staff person employed to identify state-provided programs for people with IDD other than ASD to report to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees on Medicaid waiver program waiting lists. The act instead requires the DDS commissioner to consult with the OPM staff person and annually report to these committees on people currently receiving Medicaid waiver program services.

Under the act, the report must include aggregated, deidentified data from the prior fiscal year on the following:

1. the number and age ranges of people who are and are not receiving Medicaid waiver program services but are on the waitlist for DDS residential services (for those who are receiving services, the report must include the type of services being received);
2. whether waiting lists have changed, and if so, how (prior law required this report for the previous calendar year);
3. the number of people with IDD waiting to access employment opportunities or day services;
4. the number and age ranges of primary caregivers for people with IDD who are living in their family home; and
5. the number and age ranges of individuals (a) currently served by Medicaid waiver programs, (b) currently receiving residential services through Medicaid waiver programs, and (c) added or removed from waiting lists over the past fiscal year.

The report must also include DDS's recommendations and initiatives to reduce waiting lists over the next fiscal year. The act requires the DDS commissioner to post this report on the department's website.

#### *Medicaid Waiver Programs for People With ASD*

Prior law required OPM's statewide coordinator of programs and services provided by state agencies for people with ASD to report annually to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on waiting lists for ASD-related services. The act instead requires the DSS commissioner, in consultation with the

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OPM statewide coordinator, to report on people receiving and waiting for these services to the same committees and the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council. The act repeals a separate requirement for the DSS commissioner to report annually with much of the same data to the Human Services Committee and the council.

Under the act, the report must include aggregated, deidentified data, similar to the repealed reporting requirement, from the prior fiscal year on the following:

1. the number and age ranges of people (a) currently receiving and (b) on the waiting list for, Medicaid waiver program services;
2. the number and age ranges of people (a) currently receiving and (b) on the waiting list for, residential care through the Medicaid waiver program;
3. the number and age ranges of people currently receiving Medicaid waiver program services but on the waiting list for further services and a description of the services for which these people are waiting;
4. the number and age ranges of people added to or removed from waiting lists and a description of how waiting list counts have changed in the prior calendar year; and
5. available outcome data for people eligible to receive Medicaid waiver program ASD services, including the number of people enrolled in postsecondary education, employment status, and living arrangements.

The report must also include recommendations to further reduce waiting lists and associated costs. The act requires the DSS commissioner to post this report on the department's website.

Under the act, the commissioner is no longer required to report on the (1) unmet needs of those on the waiting list and (2) projected estimates for a five-year period of costs to the state due to the unmet needs.