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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6736

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Fairley, Oemig, Delvin, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Roach, Parlette, Keiser, Kilmer, and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to lifelong learning services for individuals  
2 diagnosed with severe to profound intellectual developmental  
3 disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 71A.14 RCW; and creating  
4 a new section.

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

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

7 (1) A developmental disability is a natural part of human  
8 experience and the presence of a developmental disability in the life  
9 of a person does not diminish or alter a person's rights or opportunity  
10 to participate fully in the life of the community. The legislature  
11 recognizes that with the advancement and widespread availability of  
12 medical, educational, and social services, people with significant,  
13 multiple developmental disabilities are living longer and that  
14 investing in them at every stage of life helps maintain their skills  
15 and abilities and provides them the opportunity to have a meaningful  
16 daily life. Providing continued learning opportunities for individuals  
17 with severe and profound intellectual developmental disabilities  
18 supports both the individual and helps to maintain the well-being of  
19 the family; and

1 (2) Gainful employment or involvement in employment-related  
2 activities is an appropriate and desired goal for adults with  
3 developmental disabilities. However, for adults with severe and  
4 profound developmental disabilities or adults who are nearing  
5 retirement age, community access services should be available as an  
6 alternative, or in addition to, employment-related services.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) The department shall adopt and implement rules that enable  
10 working age adults with developmental disabilities to pursue and  
11 maintain gainful employment in integrated settings. The rules must  
12 provide that counties, under contract with the department and within  
13 specific funding provided for this purpose, will:

14 (a) Develop and make available services that offer support for  
15 working age adults who do not have a severe or profound developmental  
16 disability or are not nearing retirement age to pursue or maintain  
17 gainful employment, including support and technical assistance to  
18 achieve integrated employment outcomes; and

19 (b) Offer persons with a severe or profound developmental  
20 disability and persons nearing retirement age the option to participate  
21 in employment-related activities and nonemployment-related community  
22 access services. Community access services may include, but are not  
23 limited to:

- 24 (i) Community participation;
- 25 (ii) Social skills;
- 26 (iii) Self-advocacy skills;
- 27 (iv) Recreational skills;
- 28 (v) Continuing education classes;
- 29 (vi) Active supervision; and
- 30 (vii) Transportation.

31 (2) To the extent specific funding is provided for this purpose,  
32 department staff will:

33 (a) Authorize services to working age adults that support the  
34 individual's ability to pursue and maintain integrated, gainful  
35 employment; and

36 (b) Authorize community access services as provided in subsection

1 (1)(b) of this section for persons with severe or profound  
2 developmental disabilities or adults nearing retirement age. For  
3 persons with severe or profound developmental disabilities:

4 (i) Employment-related services and community access services are  
5 not mutually exclusive and may be provided in conjunction with one  
6 another; and

7 (ii) Persons will be given a choice of services, and the authority  
8 to exercise control over the selection of employment-related and  
9 community access services available to them.

10 (3) The department shall make every effort to maximize the use of  
11 federal funds to fund services authorized under this section.

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