
SENATE BILL 5921

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

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

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

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

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

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

7 (1) Community respite is short-term, intermittent care to relieve
8 a family member who is the primary paid care provider. Eighty percent
9 of children and adults with developmental disabilities in Washington
10 state live at home with their family. Community respite is one of the
11 single most important services which help individuals and their
12 families stay together. However, the rates paid to community respite
13 providers and the number of respite hours a family can receive per
14 year have not increased for the past ten years.

15 (2) It is the legislature's goal to assist individuals with
16 developmental disabilities and their families to increase the rate
17 paid to community respite providers for participants on the basic
18 plus waiver and for participants on the individual and family
19 services waiver by two percent each biennium over the next three
20 biennia, and increase the annual award amount for people on the basic

1 plus waiver and for people on the individual and family services
2 waiver by two percent per year over the next three biennia.

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

5 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose:

7 (1) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2025, the
8 reimbursement rate for community respite funded by the developmental
9 disabilities administration's basic plus waiver and the individual
10 and family services waiver shall be increased by two percent each
11 biennium.

12 (2) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2025, the annual
13 award amount for community respite funded by the developmental
14 disabilities administration's basic plus waiver and the individual
15 and family services waiver shall be increased by two percent each
16 year.

17 (3) For the purposes of this section, "developmental disabilities
18 administration" means the developmental disabilities administration
19 of the department.

20 (4) This section expires June 30, 2025.

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

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