
SENATE BILL 5681

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator Cortes

1 AN ACT Relating to the age at which clients of the developmental
2 disabilities administration may receive employment and community
3 inclusion services; amending RCW 71A.12.290; adding a new section to
4 chapter 71A.12 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

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

8 (1) The department shall provide employment services to clients
9 beginning at age 19.

10 (2) Employment service hours for clients of the department must
11 be determined by the assistance needed to reach employment outcomes
12 as described in rule and may not equal the amount of client time
13 spent working or in employment-related activities.

14 (3) The department shall develop rules and take other necessary
15 actions to implement this section.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 71A.12.290 and 2022 c 142 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Clients age ((21)) 19 and older who are receiving employment
19 services must be offered the choice to transition to a community
20 ((access)) inclusion program after nine months of enrollment in an

1 employment program, and the option to transition from a community
2 ((~~access~~)) inclusion program to an employment program at any time.
3 Enrollment in an employment program begins at the time the client is
4 authorized to receive employment.

5 (2) Prior approval by the department shall not be required to
6 effectuate the client's choice to transition from an employment
7 program to community ((~~access~~)) inclusion services after verifying
8 nine months of participation in employment-related services.

9 (3) The department shall inform clients and their legal
10 representatives of all available options for employment and day
11 services, including the opportunity to request an exception from
12 enrollment in an employment program. Information provided to the
13 client and the client's legal representative must include the types
14 of activities each service option provides, and the amount, scope,
15 and duration of service for which the client would be eligible under
16 each service option.

17 (4) The department shall work with counties and stakeholders to
18 strengthen and expand the existing community ((~~access~~)) inclusion
19 program, including the consideration of options that allow for
20 alternative service settings outside of the client's residence. The
21 program should emphasize support for the clients so that they are
22 able to participate in activities that integrate them into their
23 community and support independent living and skills.

24 (5) The department shall develop rules to allow for an exception
25 to the requirement that a client participate in an employment program
26 for nine months prior to transitioning to a community ((~~access~~))
27 inclusion program.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect October 1, 2025.

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