
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 186 (H.720). Human services; developmental disabilities

An act relating to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities

This act specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that:

- individuals who qualify for developmental services and who meet a funding priority as outlined in the State system of care plan for developmental services receive full and complete information in plain language regarding their options and services; and
- individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, allies, and advocates be respected and active participants in systems change activities, including payment reform, development of resources to comply with the federal home- and community-based services regulations, and development of additional residential service options.

This act amends the existing system of care plan by removing the requirement that a portion of the plan go through rulemaking. It further sets forth a process for the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (Department) to request an extension for the completion of subsequent system of care plans.

Sec. 3 of this act requires the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly by November 15, 2022, regarding the oversight of services for individuals with developmental disabilities. It also requires that the Department submit a report to the General Assembly on January 15, 2023, that includes an implementation plan addressing the fiscal and workforce requirements needed to conduct a minimum of at least one annual on-site quality assurance and improvement visit by the Department to the designated and specialized service agencies and other providers serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

This act creates a limited-service position of the Residential Program Developer within the Department and allocates funds for this purpose. It also directs the Department to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions of the State, in partnership with the designated and specialized services agencies, for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The work of the Department in developing and selecting pilot planning grants is to be guided by the steering committee.

Sec. 6 of this act addresses legislative input pertaining to system-wide payment reform and the conflict-free case management system impacting individuals with

developmental disabilities. Due to a typographical error, this section diverges from legislative intent, and the General Assembly is expected to address the discrepancy during the 2023 session.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 9, 2022