



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

Date 3/8/22

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H.720 – an act relating to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities

As introduced by the House Committee on Human Services

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0720/H-0720%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill proposes several initiatives for improving the system of care for Vermonters with developmental disabilities including several that will have fiscal implications.

- Sec. 3 would require the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) to perform annual quality reviews to the designated agencies (DA's), the specialized service agencies (SSA's) and other contracted agencies. This will require five new positions at an estimated cost of \$506,158 gross (\$253,079 General Funds). **There is no appropriation for this in the bill.**
- Sec. 4 would create a limited-service position of the Residential Program Developer within DAIL. It is estimated this position would cost between \$85,000 to \$120,000 per year (including wages, benefits, and other associated costs). **Although there is no specific appropriation for this position within the bill, funding is addressed in Sec. 7.**
- Sec. 5 includes an **appropriation of \$500,000 (gross) to DAIL** from the Home-and-Community-Based Services (HCBS) Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions of the state for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Sec. 5 also requires DAIL to convene a nine-member steering committee to provide advice and guidance as it develops and selects the pilot planning grants. Steering committee members would be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. Assuming all nine-members attend eight meetings, these per diem cost would be \$9,090. This expense is minimal and can be absorbed within DAIL's budget. As such, **no appropriation would be required.**
- Sec. 7 would require the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to seek to amend its federal Home-and-Community-Based Service Spending Plan to enable DAIL to use Global Commitment HCBS FMAP monies to fund the new Residential Program Developer position created in Sec. 4 and the pilot planning grants in Sec. 5.

Fiscal Summary

Currently, there is only one appropriation in the bill for \$500,000 to DAIL to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions in the state. The funding would come from the HCBS FMAP monies. However, there are other costs associated with this bill as highlighted below.

Draft Request 22-0596 - Estimated Costs

Sec.	Description	Funding	Estimated Fiscal impact	Notes
3	Annual Quality Reviews of DA's and SSA's	No appropriation in bill	\$506,158 (Gross) / \$253,079 (GF)	This would require 5 new positions (on-going)
4	Limited Service Position*	HCBS FMAP	\$85,000 - \$120,000	Creates the position of Residential Program Developer.
5	Pilot Planning Grants ²	HCBS FMAP	\$500,000	Appropriated to DAIL to develop housing and residential pilot grants.
5	Per-diems	No appropriation required	Nominal	Can be absorbed within DAILs budget.
		<i>Estimated GF</i>	<i>\$253,079</i>	
		<i>HCBS FMAP Funds</i>	<i>\$602,500</i>	
		TOTAL	\$1,108,625	

* HCBS FMAP = Home- and Community-Based Services Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage funding.