The Legislative Session for 2020 has Begun!

*Senate changes to the iBudget system proposed*

Senator Aaron Bean, Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee has unveiled his proposal to remedy the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) budget deficit problem. Senate Bill 82 (SB 82) was filed on January 9, 2020 and has already been heard in the Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee where it passed 5-2.

The Council has taken a position against SB 82 because of the Council’s position against managed care for iBudget services based on the lack of data that shows that such a system could provide quality services for home and community-based services for those with developmental disabilities. Senator Bean’s proposal includes managed care provisions for support coordination services and a prior authorization service for those who need more services if they have significant additional needs. There is also language in the bill that would only grant additional services to those whose health and safety is at risk or who may need more services to avoid institutionalization.

Contracted prior authorization services were tried in the past and abandoned because the administrative costs offset savings. The proposal for support coordination will change the way support coordination is provided. The bill is proposing two or more agencies in each region. These agencies will have to bid for the contract. The lowest bidder may not mean most qualified. This proposal will most likely eliminate solo, small agencies and some of the larger agencies currently providing support coordination. Moving support coordination to corporate agencies will not guarantee a cost savings and it could cost the state more money.

The iBudget Waiver is designed to include people in the community and offers
supports to those who want to live independently, with their families or who want to live in a group home. The iBudget Waiver also offers supported employment services and job training programs. These options are designed to help individuals work and live in the community and are not just for keeping individuals with developmental disabilities healthy and safe.

**SB 82** is now headed to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. This committee meets again on 01/28/2020. The agenda is not out yet, but this is the next stop. Senator Bean is the Chair of this Subcommittee and believes that this is a less restrictive option than a full-blown managed care plan that could emerge from the House this year or next.

Senator Wright voted to support this bill in the last committee, stating that because he had not heard that people like the current system, he was voting for the new option.

The Council will be contacting members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services to express our concerns with **SB 82** and to share the aspects of the system that we like. Our message will be that we like the current system and would like to see it funded annually to cover transitioning at least ten percent off the waitlist and to cover yearly utilization increases to cover the significant additional needs that accompany an aging population and an aging population of family caregivers. The Council also supports the addition of the iBudget Waiver to the social services estimating conference. In addition, the council does not have any evidence that managed care systems for the iBudget Waiver will benefit recipients or save enough money to offset administrative costs.

### Important Bills to Watch

**HB 39 - Independent Living Task Force**

*by Gottlieb*  

**Summary**

This bill establishes an Independent Living Task Force within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and provides for duties, membership, and meetings of the task force. The Council would sit on the Task Force. The Task Force must develop and evaluate policy proposals that incentivize developers or contractors to create units within mixed-use developments that may be used as low-cost, supportive, and affordable housing for individuals with a disability, while giving special consideration to the needs of individuals who have a developmental disability or a mental illness. The bill requires the start of meeting by August 1, 2020. The bill requires that the task force submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. **The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

**Actions**

- 08/08/19 HOUSE   Filed
- 09/23/19 HOUSE   Referred to Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Children, Families & Seniors
This bill requires community transportation coordinators to increase and support programs that enhance cross-county mobility for transportation disadvantaged. The bill also requires coordinating boards to evaluate multicounty or regional transportation opportunities to increase and support such programs. Sensitivity training requirements were amended off the bill. Effective Date: July 1, 2020.

The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions

11/06/19 HOUSE Filed
11/15/19 HOUSE Referred to Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee; Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
01/16/20 HOUSE Reference to Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee removed; Remaining references: State Affairs Committee

Now in State Affairs Committee

Similar Bills

SB 0076 Transportation Disadvantaged by Book
08/16/19 SENATE Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

HB 79 - Student Elopement by Jenne and Co-Sponsors: Daley, Gottlieb, Mercado, Polo, Raschein

Summary

This bill requires public schools to create School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and school elopement plan. The bill provides requirements for the team and the plan. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. The Council is neutral on this proposed legislation at his time.

Actions

08/21/19 HOUSE Filed
Identical Bills

SB 0650 Student Elopement by Book
11/06/19 - SENATE Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

HB 361 - Developmental Disabilities by Hattersley Co-Sponsors: Polo

Summary

This bill revises the definition of the term "developmental disability." This definition would move Florida closer to using the federal definition for a developmental disability. Effective Date: July 1, 2020.

Actions

10/15/19 HOUSE Filed
10/23/19 HOUSE Referred to Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee
Now in Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

Similar Bills

SB 0532 Developmental Disabilities by Cruz
11/01/19 - SENATE Referred to Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

HB 601 - Public School Transportation by Pritchett and Co-Sponsors: Cortes, Eskamani

Summary

This bill requires district school boards to provide transportation for each public elementary school student through sixth grade, if student's single parent or guardian has a developmental disability. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions

11/12/19 HOUSE Filed
11/25/19 HOUSE Referred to PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Committee
Now in PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

Identical Bills

SB 0472 Public School Transportation by Bracy
**SB 1106 - Universal Changing Places by Baxley**

**Summary**

The bill requires new, large public buildings to install and maintain at least one universal changing place that can accommodate an adult. This legislation was created by Sabrina Kimball, a former Partners in Policymaking graduate. Ms. Kimball has worked on this proposed legislation in the past. New Hampshire used her bill language and passed it and now she wants to try again to get this legislation passed in Florida. The bill would require that large, high use public offices and venues offer changing tables for adults who need them. The bill specifies requirements for a universal changing place. Effective Date: 7/1/2020. **The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

**Actions**

12/03/19 SENATE  Filed  
12/13/19 SENATE  Referred to Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; Rules

**Similar Bills**

**HB 0669 Universal Changing Places by Newton**

12/03/19 - HOUSE Now in Business & Professions Subcommittee

**HB 787 - Driver Licenses by Tomkow**

**Summary**

This bill authorizes person with specified disabilities to have capital letter "D" placed on his or her driver license and provides requirements for placement of such letter on person's driver license. This bill would provide fees (see linked bills) for placement of specified letter on driver license of person who has a developmental disability. The license would be voluntary for adults with no guardians and is intended to alert law enforcement to unusual behaviors and responses. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. **The Council narrowly voted to stay neutral on this bill.**

**Actions**

11/26/19 HOUSE  Filed  
12/16/19 HOUSE  Referred to Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee; Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee  Now in Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee

**Identical Bills**

**SB 1692 Driver Licenses by Flores**

01/17/20 - SENATE Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Appropriations
SB 1198 - Purple Alert by Berman

Summary

This bill redefines the term "missing endangered person". The bill requires the Department of Law Enforcement, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of the Lottery, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish and implement the Purple Alert. The bill authorizes local law enforcement agencies to broadcast information concerning certain missing adults; requiring local law enforcement agencies to notify certain media and alert subscribers if a Purple Alert is determined to be necessary and appropriate.

APPROPRIATION: $322,836 Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1, 2020, this act shall take effect July 1, 2021. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions

12/10/19 SENATE  Filed
12/18/19 SENATE  Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Rules

Similar Bills

HB 0899 Purple Alert by Casello
12/19/19 - HOUSE Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee

SB 1344 - Intermediate Care Facilities by Harrell

Summary

The bill requires certain facilities that have been granted a certificate-of-need exemption to demonstrate and maintain compliance with specified criteria. The bill provides an exemption from a certificate-of-need requirement for certain intermediate care facilities. The bill prohibits the Agency for Health Care Administration from granting an additional exemption to a facility unless a certain condition is met. Effective Date: 7/1/2020. The Council is neutral on this
proposed legislation.

Actions

12/27/19 SENATE Filed

01/13/20 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

Similar Bills

HB 1163 Intermediate Care Facilities by Burton
01/13/20 - HOUSE Now in Health Market Reform Subcommittee

HB 1349 - Social Services Estimating Conference by Ausley

Summary

This bill specifies information Social Services Estimating Conference must develop related to a certain Medicaid waiver services program related to the iBudget for the home-based and community-based Medicaid waiver services program and must include iBudget enrollment, the number of current waiver recipients, the size of the waitlist, the rate of utilization of program services, and expenditure information that the conference determines is needed to plan for and project future budgets and the drawdown of federal matching funds.

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Actions

01/13/20 HOUSE Filed

01/17/20 HOUSE Referred to Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee

Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

Identical Bills

SB 1780 Social Services Estimating Conference by Berman
01/17/20 - SENATE Referred to Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations