Personal Support Services Funding Increase

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is asking for a Personal Support Services funding increase of $3.00 an hour for those providing direct care to iBudget Waiver recipients through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

Florida families and providers must be able to recruit and retain dedicated people to work with the direct care needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Higher wages for personal support staff are needed to improve the availability of direct care workers.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and its stakeholders have been advocating for an increase in iBudget personal support compensation. A targeted meaningful increase in personal support hourly rates is critical since this remains one of the most essential yet underfunded services. Personal Supports are individualized personal care services utilized by over 13,000 individuals on the iBudget waiver who live in their family home, small group homes, or in an apartment.
Residential Habilitation is another kind of service providing up to a full day of services and supports which are designed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the Individual, and assist in the acquisition, improvement, and retention of skills necessary to support over 8,000 individuals to live in more costly group homes.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council has determined that the best investment of state dollars would be to recommend an increase for individual Personal Supports. This funding would be used by more people on the waiver and supports them in many less costly settings.

Currently, an increase in Residential Habilitation funding is in the Senate Budget and no Personal Support funding is in either budget.

The Council will be working with the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee to encourage the legislature to adopt an increase in Personal Support funding of $3.00 dollars an hour during Budget Conference.

See below information and updates on each bill we are monitoring as they directly impact those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Important Bills to Watch**

**SB 62 - Students with Disabilities in Public Schools - 2019 by Book CS**
Sponsors: Education - Amended to the Dorothy L. Hukill Student Safety

**Summary**

This bill provides requirements for the use of physical restraint and the use of exclusionary and non-exclusionary time. The bill also provides requirements for documenting, reporting, and monitoring the use of restraint and exclusionary or non-exclusionary time. The bill includes continuing education and in-service training for instructional personnel in teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities. Education Committee members passed this bill along but they had concerns about reporting requirements and types of restraints that may be omitted. **The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

**Actions**
The At-Risk Adult Alert Plan redefines the term "missing endangered person" to include a missing adult who meets the criteria for activation of the At-Risk Adult Alert Plan of the Department of Law Enforcement. SB 844 creates the At-Risk Adult Alert Plan which aids in the search for a missing adult:

- Who has a verified mental or cognitive impairment;
- Whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the person's welfare and safety; and
- Who does not meet the criteria for activation of the Silver Alert Plan.

The bill requires the Department of Law Enforcement, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish and implement the At-Risk Adult Alert Plan; requiring a local law enforcement agency to broadcast information to the public and the media about certain missing adults. **The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

**Summary**

**Actions**

02/15/19 SENATE Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations
The bill establishes the Assisted & Independent Living Facility Task Force. The bill provides duties, membership, and meetings of task force. The task force is required to submit report to the Governor and the Legislature. The bill creates s. 393.25 and shall develop and evaluate policy proposals that incentivize building contractors and developers to create space for assisted living facilities or independent living facilities within mixed-use developments which may be used as low-cost, supportive, and affordable housing for individuals who are in need of such housing and who have an intellectual disability or autism, as those terms are defined in s. 393.063, or a mental illness, as defined in s. 394.455. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions

01/23/19 HOUSE Referred to Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

03/22/19 HOUSE References to Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee removed; Reference to State Affairs Committee added; remaining reference: State Affairs Committee
Summary

The bill revises the definition of the term "developmental disability" to include a disorder or syndrome attributable to X-linked myotubular myopathy; defining the term "X-linked myotubular myopathy" to mean a diagnosed, inherited, genetic neuromuscular disorder characterized by mild to profound muscle weakness, diminished muscle tone or hypotonia, feeding difficulties, ophthalmoplegia, areflexia, scoliosis, joint deformities, or potentially severe breathing difficulties. This disorder is very rare. A child with this disorder gave compelling testimony in sign language along with his parents and their doctor.

The Council is neutral on this proposed legislation because the Council uses the federal definition of developmental disability and supports the addition of all the conditions that come under the federal definition.

Actions

02/15/19 HOUSE Filed
02/28/19 HOUSE Referred to Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee
04/09/19 HOUSE Favorable by Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays. Now in Health & Human Services Committee

Identical Bills

SB 0390 X-linked Myotubular Myopathy by Cruz
SB 302 - Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services - by Brandes CS
Sponsors: Health Policy

Summary

This bill would authorize Medicaid non-emergency transportation services to be provided to a Medicaid recipient by certain transportation network companies or transportation brokers, subject to compliance with certain requirements. The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to update the Non-Emergency Transportation Services Coverage Policy by a specified date.

Actions

02/22/19 SENATE Reference to Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, Appropriations removed; Reference to Banking and Insurance, Rules added; Remaining References: Banking and Insurance, Rules
03/11/19 SENATE Favorable by Banking and Insurance; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays
03/12/19 SENATE Now in Rules

Similar Bills

HB 0411 Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services by Perez
04/11/19 - HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays)
04/18/19 - SENATE in Messages

HB 183 - Student Elopement - by Jenne CoSponsors: Mercado

Summary

This bill requires public schools to create Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and school elopement plan. The bill provides requirements for team and plan including requirements for elopement quick reference guides for certain students. The bill requires public schools to annually submit their plans to district school board. The Council is neutral on this bill.
Actions

01/08/19 HOUSE   Filed
01/16/19 HOUSE   Referred to PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Committee

Now in PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee

Similar Bills

SB 1736 Student Elopement by Book
03/08/19 - SENATE Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations