

Public Policy Committee Report

January 26, 2023

Tallahassee, FL

The Public Policy Committee met this morning, and we discussed updates on the Councils Legislative Platform which includes the **Invest in Home and Community Based Services for those with I/DD priority** which is underway. Margaret is introducing herself to new lawmakers and educating them on the value of HCBS and the improvements that are recommended for the iBudget Waiver. We discussed the other legislative issues of **Supported Decision Making, Dental Services, the Waitlist Campaign and Foster Care Recommendations.**

Decision items that were considered by the Public Policy Committee included the following proposed legislation,

1) Consideration of HB 19 by Tant

This bill requires IEPs for certain students to contain information on legal rights and responsibilities that transfer to students at age 18 and requires information to include ways in which students may provide informed consent to allow his or her parent to continue to participate in educational decisions as well as types of guardianship available. **The Committee voted to support this bill.**

2) Consideration of HB 61 by Harris

This bill called Medicaid Expansion through a Medicaid Buy-in Program, requires AHCA to establish and implement a Medicaid buy-in program for certain individuals with disabilities. The bill provides requirements for a program and requires the agency to seek federal waiver approval or submit any state plan amendments necessary to implement a program and finally requires the agency to implement a program upon receiving federal approval. **The Committee voted to support this bill.**

Consideration of *recently* filed bills

3) HB 223 Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities by Bartleman

SB 290 Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities by Jones

These companion bills would require comprehensive plans for student progression to provide for specified students with disabilities to be retained in prekindergarten. The bill requires DOE to establish criteria for such students to be retained and revises requirements for students with disabilities to receive good cause exemption from mandatory retention in grade 3. **The Committee voted to support these bills.**

4) HB 255 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by Barnaby

SB 228 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by Berman

These bills would revise the definition of the term “developmental disability” to include fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and defines the term “fetal alcohol spectrum disorders”. The effective date would be next year, 7/1/2024. **The Committee is neutral on this bill but it will be tracked.**

Hybrid Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for March 14, 2023!