



# S.B. 259 (2013 GENERAL SESSION) – AMENDMENTS TO DISABILITY WAITING LIST

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
STAFF: STEPHEN JARDINE

ISSUE BRIEF

## SUMMARY

S.B. 259, *Amendments to Disability Waiting List* (Christensen, 2013 General Session) allocates 85% of new funding designated to serve eligible persons waiting for services as based upon: 1) severity of the disability, 2) urgency of the need, 3) ability of parent(s) or guardian to provide adequate care and supervision, and 4) the length of time an individual has been waiting. The remaining 15% of new funding is for respite care.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

No Legislative action is required. This brief is presented for informational purposes only.

## OVERVIEW

The Legislature passed S.B. 259, *Amendments to Disability Waiting List* (Christensen), during its 2013 General Session. S.B. 259 requires:

- Beginning July 1, 2013, the Division of Services for People With Disabilities (DSPD) will allocate new funding designated to serve eligible persons waiting for services as follows:
  - 85% based on the:
    1. Severity of their disability
    2. Urgency of their need
    3. Ability of a parent or guardian to provide the person with disability with adequate care and supervision
    4. Length of time waiting for services
  - 15% for respite care:
    - For people identified (by rule) as those who only need respite services
    - Allocated based on random selection
    - For respite care, service brokering, family skill building and preservation classes, after school group services, and other professional services.
- Any remaining 85% or 15% funds not spent by DSPD at the end of the fiscal year should be used to provide services to other eligible individuals waiting for services.
- If an individual receiving services stops receiving those services, DSPD will use the funds to provide services to another eligible person.
- Use of funds that are not spent by the Division at the end of the fiscal year are defined in the bill and may be used for short term, time-limited services that are not considered an entitlement and may be withdrawn at any time.

## FIRST YEAR DATA

2.

- i. With the \$500,000 appropriated for State Fiscal Year 2014 for individuals waiting for services, the Division brought a total of 99 people into services. Using 85% of the appropriations as outlined above resulted in 67 people being brought into services according to the defined criteria. Using 15% of the appropriations resulted in 32 people being brought into services who had requested respite services only.

- II. As of January 10<sup>th</sup>, the division has 60 people currently in the processes of intake, eligibility, and service provisioning to receive services based on using funding from people who have stopped receiving services.
- III. DSPD has obligated the funding for one-time services as follows: \$1,250,000 for 250 individuals on the DSPD waiting list to receive \$5,000 in one-time respite services; \$160,000 for service brokering for 115 people on the waiting list at \$1,400 per person, \$50,000 for family skill building for 40 families at \$1,250 each; no specific amount for after school classes has yet been identified; and no specific amount for other professional services has yet been identified.