
HOUSE BILL 1654

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Harris and Taylor

1 AN ACT Relating to enhanced behavior support homes; amending RCW
2 43.185.020; adding new sections to chapter 43.185 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
6 growing crisis for individuals with intellectual and developmental
7 disabilities reaching adulthood that cannot access safe and
8 appropriate community living options. The current supported living
9 housing model often fails those with intellectual and developmental
10 disabilities who have significant behavioral challenges by refusing
11 to take them as clients, leading to housing insatiability. These
12 vulnerable individuals then often bounce between their family home,
13 if they have one; temporary respite placements; hospital boarding;
14 jail; or homelessness at great expense to our state, medical, and
15 mental health systems. By this act, the legislature intends to
16 establish an enhanced behavior support homes model in Washington
17 state for purposes of providing intensive behavioral services and
18 support to adults and children with intellectual and developmental
19 disabilities who require enhanced services and support due to
20 challenging behaviors that cannot be safely and holistically managed
21 in an exclusively community setting, and who are at risk of

1 institutionalization or out-of-state placement, or are transitioning
2 to the community from an intermediate care facility, hospital, or
3 other state-operated residential facility.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.185.020 and 2013 c 145 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Administration" means the department of social and health
9 services developmental disabilities administration.

10 (2) "Contracted amount" means the aggregate amount of all state
11 funds for which the department has monitoring and compliance
12 responsibility.

13 ~~((2))~~ (3) "Delayed egress" means a device that gives staff
14 awareness of movements within the facility. If a door control system
15 is used, it must not prevent a resident from leaving on their own
16 accord, except temporary delays such as delayed egress consistent
17 with state building code.

18 (4) "Department" means the department of commerce.

19 ~~((3))~~ (5) "Director" means the director of the department of
20 commerce.

21 (6) "Enhanced behavior support home" means a residential facility
22 or a group home that provides 24-hour nonmedical care in a homelike
23 setting to individuals with developmental disabilities who require
24 enhanced behavior support, staffing, and supervision. An enhanced
25 behavior support home shall have a maximum capacity of four
26 clients. The enhanced behavior support home shall be eligible for
27 federal medicaid home and community-based services funding.

28 (7) "Enhanced behavioral services and support" means additional
29 staffing supervision, facility characteristics, and psychiatric or
30 other services and support to address a client's challenging
31 behaviors, which are beyond what is typically available in other
32 community facilities or a group home to serve individuals in a
33 community setting rather than in an institution.

34 (8) "Individual behavior support plan" means the plan that
35 identifies and documents the behavior and intensive support and
36 service needs of a client and details the strategies and
37 interventions to be employed and type and amount of services to be
38 provided to address those needs, and includes the entity responsible

1 for providing those services and timelines for when each identified
2 individual behavior support will commence.

3 (9) "Individual behavior support team" means those individuals
4 who develop, monitor, and revise the individual behavior support plan
5 for clients residing in an enhanced behavior support home. The team
6 shall, at a minimum, be composed of the following individuals:

7 (a) Administration service coordinator and other administration
8 representatives, as necessary;

9 (b) Client and, where appropriate, his or her guardian or
10 authorized representative;

11 (c) Service provider's board-certified behavior analyst or
12 qualified behavior modification professional;

13 (d) Enhanced behavior support home administrator;

14 (e) Clients' rights advocate, unless the client objects on his or
15 her own behalf to participation by the clients' rights advocate; and

16 (f) Others deemed necessary by the client, or his or her guardian
17 or authorized representative, for developing a comprehensive and
18 effective individual behavior support plan.

19 (10) "Residential habilitation center" means a state-operated
20 facility for persons with developmental disabilities governed by
21 chapter 71A.20 RCW.

22 (11) "Service" or "services" means services provided by state or
23 local government to carry out Title 71A RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.185
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
27 specific purpose, the enhanced behavior support homes program is
28 established to provide enhanced behavioral services and support to
29 serve individuals in a community setting rather than in an
30 institution.

31 (2) The director shall license or certify enhanced behavior
32 support homes that meet state minimum standards.

33 (3) The department must establish rules working with the
34 administration and the department of social and health services to
35 create standards for licensure or certification of enhanced behavior
36 support homes. The rules, at a minimum, must:

37 (a) Require 24-hour supervision of residents;

38 (b) Establish staffing requirements that provide an appropriate
39 response to the acuity of the residents;

1 (c) Establish requirements for the ability to use delayed egress
2 devices of the time-delay type;

3 (d) Establish resident rights that are substantially similar to
4 the rights of residents in residential habilitation centers; and

5 (e) Establish program standards, including program design
6 requirements, staffing structure, staff qualifications, and training.
7 Training requirements shall include:

8 (i) A minimum of 40 hours of emergency intervention training,
9 which shall include the techniques the licensee will use to prevent
10 injury and maintain safety regarding clients who are a danger to self
11 or others and shall emphasize positive behavior support and
12 techniques that are alternatives to physical restraints;

13 (ii) Additional training for direct care staff to address the
14 specialized needs of the clients, including training in emergency
15 interventions.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) The director and the entities providing state services under
19 chapter 71A.12 RCW and local services under chapter 71A.14 RCW shall:

20 (a) Work with willing residential habilitation centers licensed
21 under chapter 71A.20 RCW and group training homes licensed or
22 certified under chapter 71A.22 RCW to assess their capacity to become
23 licensed or certified to meet the requirements of this chapter; and

24 (b) Enter into contracts and payment arrangements with such
25 centers and homes choosing to provide enhanced behavior support
26 placements, to the extent that willing licensed or certified
27 facilities are available.

28 (2) Nothing in this section requires any residential habilitation
29 centers or group training homes to be licensed or certified to
30 provide enhanced behavior support placements.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) The enhanced behavior support home provider is responsible
34 for coordinating the development and updating of each client's
35 individual behavior support plan with the client's individual
36 behavior support team. The initial individual behavior support plan
37 shall be developed within 14 days of the client's admission to the
38 enhanced behavior support home.

1 (2) The plan shall maximize the opportunities for independence,
2 recovery, employment, the resident's participation in service
3 planning decisions, and collaboration with peer-supported services,
4 and provide for care and services in the least restrictive manner
5 appropriate to the individual resident.

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