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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6384**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2012 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Parlette, Murray, Keiser, Fraser, Carrell, Kline, Pridemore, Frockt, Delvin, Harper, Fain, Honeyford, Benton, Hobbs, Hewitt, Shin, Regala, McAuliffe, Conway, Kohl-Welles, Roach, Haugen, and Nelson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/12.

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AN ACT Relating to ensuring that persons with developmental disabilities be given the opportunity to transition to a community access program after enrollment in an employment program; and adding a new section to chapter 71A.12 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.12 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Clients age twenty-one and older who are receiving employment services must be offered the choice to transition to a community access program after nine months of enrollment in an employment program, and the option to transition from a community access program to an employment program at any time. Enrollment in an employment program begins at the time the client is authorized to receive employment.

(2) Prior approval by the department shall not be required to

1 effectuate the client's choice to transition from an employment program  
2 to community access services after verifying nine months of  
3 participation in employment-related services.

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5 (3) The department shall inform clients and their legal  
6 representatives of all available options for employment and day  
7 services, including the opportunity to request an exception from  
8 enrollment in an employment program. Information provided to the  
9 client and the client's legal representative must include the types of  
10 activities each service option provides, and the amount, scope, and  
11 duration of service for which the client would be eligible under each  
12 service option. An individual client may be authorized for only one  
13 service option, either employment services or community access  
14 services. Clients may not participate in more than one of these  
15 services at any given time.

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17 (4) The department shall work with counties and stakeholders to  
18 strengthen and expand the existing community access program, including  
19 the consideration of options that allow for alternative service  
20 settings outside of the client's residence. The program should  
21 emphasize support for the clients so that they are able to participate  
22 in activities that integrate them into their community and support  
23 independent living and skills.

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25 (5) The department shall develop rules to allow for an exception to  
26 the requirement that a client participate in an employment program for  
27 nine months prior to transitioning to a community access program.

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