



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5361

LCO No. 1319

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Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING CONSOLIDATION OF AGENCIES SERVING PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective February 1, 2005*) (a) There shall be established a
2 Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services. The
3 department head shall be the Commissioner of Developmental and
4 Rehabilitative Services, who shall be appointed by the Governor in
5 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, of the
6 general statutes, as amended, with the powers and duties therein
7 described.

8 (b) The Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services
9 shall constitute a successor agency to the Department of Mental
10 Retardation, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
11 the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the Commission on
12 the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Bureau of Rehabilitation
13 Services in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and
14 4-39 of the general statutes.

15 (c) The Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services
16 shall consist of the following divisions: (1) Administrative; (2) mental
17 health and addiction services, to which shall be transferred all the
18 programs and services of the Department of Mental Health and
19 Addiction Services; (3) mental retardation services, to which shall be
20 transferred all the programs and services of the Department of Mental
21 Retardation; (4) services for the blind and visually impaired, to which
22 shall be transferred all the programs and services of the Board of
23 Education and Services for the Blind; (5) services for the deaf, to which
24 shall be transferred all the programs and services of the Commission
25 on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired; and (6) disability determination
26 and vocational rehabilitation, to which shall be transferred all the
27 programs and services of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.

28 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy
29 and Management shall direct the consolidation of the agencies
30 specified in subsection (b) of section 1 of this act into the Department
31 of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services. There shall be
32 established a steering committee to develop an implementation plan
33 for such consolidation. The members of said steering committee shall
34 be appointed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
35 from individuals designated by each of the following agencies and
36 organizations as follows: One member from the State Employees
37 Union Bargaining Coalition; one member from the state Management
38 Advisory Council; one member from each of the agencies specified in
39 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act; one member from an advocacy
40 organization representing one of the client groups serviced by one of
41 the agencies specified in subsection (b) of section 1 of this act; one
42 member from a contracting service provider for one of the agencies
43 specified in subsection (b) of section 1 of this act, that is not an
44 advocate of a client group, and one member from a private sector
45 business or trade association representing business and industry
46 interests.

47 (b) The steering committee shall develop a consolidation

48 implementation plan to begin on February 1, 2005, and to be
49 completed by December 31, 2005. Each member of the steering
50 committee from an agency specified in subsection (b) of section 1 of
51 this act shall have authority to form an implementation team
52 consisting of personnel in such member's agency and in any support
53 agency, including, but not limited to, the Department of Information
54 Technology, appropriate and relevant to achieving such agency's
55 consolidation into the Department of Developmental and
56 Rehabilitative Services. Said steering committee shall prioritize all
57 activities necessary to such consolidation and establish completion
58 dates for such activities, which shall be included in the consolidation
59 implementation plan. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
60 Management shall, on or before January 1, 2005, submit such
61 consolidation implementation plan, in accordance with section 11-4a of
62 the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
63 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations,
64 human services, public health and government administration.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>February 1, 2005</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To consolidate state agencies serving persons with disabilities into a new Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]