
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5437

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITIONS OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

SUMMARY:

This bill updates the statutory definition of “mental retardation” to mean (1) a significant limitation in intellectual functioning and (2) deficits in adaptive behavior that originated during the developmental period before age 18.

Under the bill, “significant limitation in intellectual functioning” means an intelligence quotient (I.Q.) more than two standard deviations below the mean. An I.Q. must be measured by general intellectual function tests that are individualized, standardized, and clinically and culturally appropriate to the individual. The bill requires that adaptive behavior be measured by tests that are individualized, standardized, and clinically and culturally appropriate, but does not require that they test intellectual functions.

By law, mental retardation has the same meaning as intellectual disability in most statutes. (PA 11-16 substituted the term “intellectual disability” for mental retardation in several statutes to reflect changes in federal law and the developmental disabilities community.)

Current law defines mental retardation as a general intellectual functioning that is significantly subaverage. It must coincide with deficits in adaptive behavior and have manifested during the developmental period before age 18.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/23/2012)