



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 328**

LCO No. 6191



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE STATE.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of  
2 Developmental Services shall develop a strategic plan to reduce the wait  
3 time for services provided by the Department of Developmental  
4 Services to persons with intellectual disability. Not later than January 1,  
5 2022, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall submit such  
6 plan and any recommendations for legislation necessary to implement  
7 such plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
8 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
9 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health.

10 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) Notwithstanding any  
11 provision of the general statutes, on and after October 1, 2021, the  
12 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall consult with all  
13 relevant stakeholders before implementing any plan to close a facility  
14 operated by the Department of Developmental Services.

15 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) Notwithstanding any

16 provision of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Developmental  
17 Services shall provide notice to each person with intellectual disability  
18 or such person's legal representative, before such person's eligibility to  
19 receive state-assisted care ends. As used in this section, "legal  
20 representative" has the same meaning as provided in section 17b-450 of  
21 the general statutes.

22       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) The Commissioner of Social  
23 Services may contract with one or more hospital and one or more  
24 nonprofit organization to provide social services and referrals for social  
25 services to frequent users of hospital services, including, but not limited  
26 to, emergency department services. Subject to approval by applicable  
27 federal authority, the Department of Social Services shall utilize the  
28 provider network and billing system of the contracted hospitals and  
29 nonprofit organizations in the provision of such services and referrals.  
30 In order to implement the provisions of this section, the commissioner  
31 may establish rates of payment to providers of social services under this  
32 section if the establishment of such rates is required to ensure that any  
33 contract entered into with a hospital or nonprofit organization pursuant  
34 to this section is cost neutral to such providers in the aggregate and  
35 ensures patient access. Utilization may be a factor in determining cost  
36 neutrality. As used in this section, "hospital" means an establishment  
37 licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes for lodging,  
38 care and treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal  
39 physical or mental conditions.

40       Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
41 study the Department of Developmental Services' level of need  
42 assessment system. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to,  
43 (1) an examination of the instrument, policies, procedures, training and  
44 education materials related to the department's level of need assessment  
45 system and the diverse behavioral and medical issues assessed by such  
46 system, and (2) the development of recommendations for improvement  
47 and greater consistency in the administration and results of such  
48 system.

- 49 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 50 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 51 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 52 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
53 Representatives;
- 54 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 55 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
56 Representatives;
- 57 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 58 (7) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the  
59 commissioner's designee.
- 60 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
61 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
62 of the General Assembly.
- 63 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
64 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
65 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 66 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
67 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
68 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
69 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
70 days after the effective date of this section.
- 71 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
72 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
73 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 74 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report

75 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
76 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
77 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
78 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such  
79 report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) require the Commissioner of Developmental Services to develop a strategic plan to reduce the wait time for persons with intellectual disability for services from the department, (2) require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to consult with stakeholders on any plan to close a facility operated by the Department of Developmental Services, (3) require the Department of Developmental Services to provide notice when the eligibility of a person with intellectual disability to receive state-assisted care will end, (4) allow the Department of Social Services to contract with hospitals and nonprofit organizations to provide social services and referrals to frequent patients of hospital services, and (5) establish a task force to study the Department of Developmental Services' level of need assessment system.

*[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.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. KELLY, 21st Dist.; SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.  
SEN. FORMICA, 20th Dist.

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