

83rd Legislative Session
IDD Select Bills
Signed by Governor

HB 617 (Rodriguez of Travis)

Relating to transition and employment services for public school students enrolled in special education programs

Each school district must designate at least one employee to serve as district's designee on transition and employment services for students enrolled in special education programs. Designated staff must provide information and resources to ensure local school staff communicate and collaborate with students enrolled in special education programs, their parents, and, as appropriate, local and regional staff of HHSC and of state agencies under HHSC oversight. TEA, with assistance from HHSC, to develop a transition and employment guide for students enrolled in special education programs and their parents.

Enrolled 5/20/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor

HB 2276 (Crownover)

Relating to notice of residential services available for persons with intellectual disabilities.

In addition to explanation already required by statute, the department shall ensure each person inquiring about residential services receives: (1) pamphlet or similar informational material explaining that a state supported living center may be an option available to an eligible individual, and (2) information relating to whether appropriate residential services are available in the state supported living center located nearest to residence of proposed resident.

Enrolled 5/26/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor

HB 2673 (Price)

Relating to protection and care of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Requires HHSC to establish an independent mortality review system to review the death of a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who, at the time of the person's death or at any time during the 24-hour period before the person's death, resided in a state supported living center or was served by a community-based ICF/IID or waiver program. HHSC must contract with an institution of higher learning or a health care organization or association with experience in conducting research-based mortality studies to conduct the independent mortality reviews. Consistency across the mortality review system must be assured.

Enrolled 5/23/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor

SB 7 (Nelson)

Relating to improving the delivery and quality of certain health and human services, including the delivery and quality of Medicaid acute care services and long-term care services and supports. See summary posted on Texas Council website.

Enrolled 5/28/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor

SB 45 (Zaffirini)

Relating to provision of employment assistance and supported employment to certain Medicaid waiver program participants.

“Employment assistance” means assistance provided to help an individual locate paid community employment. “Supported employment” means employment in which assistance is provided for someone with a disability, in order to sustain paid employment. Supported employment is provided at a work site at which individuals without disabilities are employed and includes adaptations, supervision, and training related to an individual’s diagnosis.

Employment assistance and supported employment are required to be provided in all Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs and STAR + PLUS.

Enrolled 5/25/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor

SB 1060 (Nelson)

Relating to family cost share provisions in the early childhood intervention program.

Requires DARS to collect data, including data on administrative costs and adjusted family income, sufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of the family cost share provisions of the ECI program. Also requires DARS to consider implementing a family cost share provision under which the amount a family pays to participate in the ECI program is based on the amount of services received.

Enrolled 5/16/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor

SB 1226 (Zaffirini)

Relating to establishment of an employment-first policy and task force that promote opportunities for individuals with disabilities to earn a living wage with competitive employment

Establishes state policy that earning a living wage through competitive employment is priority and preferred outcome for working-age individuals with disabilities who receive public benefits. HHSC, TEA, and TWC must jointly adopt and implement an employment-first policy affirming that an individual with a disability meets the same employment standards as an individual who does not have a disability, but stipulates that competitive employment is not required of an individual with a disability to secure or maintain public benefits. HHSC must establish an interagency employment-first task force, or use an existing committee or task force, to promote competitive employment of individuals with disabilities.

Enrolled 5/28/13 – Sent to Governor

6/14/13 – Signed by Governor