



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7108

LCO No. 5570



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTISM AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior" means the
3 effectiveness or degree with which an individual meets the standards of
4 personal independence and social responsibility expected for the
5 individual's age and cultural group as measured by assessments that are
6 individualized, standardized and clinically and culturally appropriate.
- 7 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in
8 consultation with the Commissioners of Social Services, Developmental
9 Services, Aging and Disability Services and Public Health, the Council
10 on Developmental Disabilities and the Autism Spectrum Disorder
11 Advisory Council, shall implement the first two recommendations of a
12 November 15, 2024, report commissioned by the Office of Policy and
13 Management entitled "The Evaluation of Statutory Definitions and
14 Regulations: Intellectual Disability and Related Programs".
- 15 (c) In implementing the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
16 the secretary shall (1) explore changes in eligibility to remove
17 intelligence quotient scores as a component of eligibility for state

18 services for persons with intellectual disability, (2) consider state
19 adoption of a broader definition of developmental disability that
20 includes intellectual disability, autism and any other condition that
21 results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive
22 behavior, (3) assess the level of need assessment tool used by the
23 Department of Developmental Services and the universal assessment
24 tool used by the Department of Social Services to determine eligibility
25 for services, and (4) analyze the impact of extending eligibility for the
26 home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs administered
27 by the Department of Developmental Services to individuals with an
28 intelligence quotient greater than sixty-nine and a level of need
29 assessment score of eight.

30 (d) Not later than January 1, 2026, the secretary shall file a report, in
31 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
32 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
33 cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health. The
34 report shall include recommendations concerning (1) the advisability of
35 changes in eligibility criteria to remove intelligence quotient scores, (2)
36 the utility of the level of need assessment tool used by the Department
37 of Developmental Services and the universal assessment tool used by
38 the Department of Social Services, (3) the impact of expanding eligibility
39 for the home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs
40 administered by the Department of Developmental Services, (4) the total
41 number of people waiting for autism services versus receiving autism
42 services and their associated levels of need, and (5) a plan for addressing
43 those with autism with high care needs. The secretary, in consultation
44 with the Commissioner of Developmental Services, shall report twice
45 annually to said committees on the number of persons with intellectual
46 disability who are denied either day program care or residential services
47 because of their level of need.

48 Sec. 2. Section 4-67bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

50 (a) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
51 and Management shall establish two new staff positions, (1) one of
52 whom shall serve as state-wide coordinator of programs and services
53 provided by state agencies for individuals with autism spectrum
54 disorder, and (2) one of whom shall (A) identify programs and services
55 provided by state agencies for individuals who have an intellectual or
56 developmental disability other than autism spectrum disorder; and (B)
57 help commissioners of such agencies to coordinate such programs and
58 services. On and after July 1, 2025, the state-wide autism services
59 coordinator, in consultation with the staff member assisting agencies
60 that serve persons with an intellectual or developmental disability other
61 than autism spectrum disorder, shall serve as a liaison to hospitals in the
62 state caring for such persons.

63 (b) The secretary shall establish an interagency coalition, which shall
64 include, but need not be limited to, representatives from the Department
65 of Developmental Services, in its capacity as the lead agency for persons
66 with an intellectual or developmental disability pursuant to section 17a-
67 210, and the Department of Social Services, in its capacity as the lead
68 agency for persons with autism spectrum disorder pursuant to section
69 17a-215c. The coalition shall meet not less than quarterly and work on
70 strategies to reduce silos in the provision of state agency services for
71 such persons.

72 (c) Not later than July 1, 2025, the secretary shall submit a report, in
73 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the progress of the
74 interagency coalition in reducing silos of services with the joint standing
75 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
76 relating to human services and public health. Not later than July 1, 2026,
77 the secretary shall file a report with said committees on the efforts of the
78 liaison to hospitals, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to provide
79 information and assistance to hospitals on state programs and services
80 that may provide an alternative to hospitalization for certain persons
81 with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability or a
82 developmental disability other than autism spectrum disorder.

83 Sec. 3. Section 17a-247b of the general statutes is amended by adding
84 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

85 (NEW) (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this
86 section, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report
87 not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, identifying (1)
88 the number of abuse and neglect complaints against former employees
89 received in the previous calendar year, (2) the disposition of such
90 complaints, and (3) any backlog of investigations relating to such
91 complaints. The commissioner shall post the report on the department's
92 Internet web site and file the report, in accordance with the provisions
93 of section 11-4a, with the joint standing committees of the General
94 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
95 public health.

96 Sec. 4. Section 17a-247f of the general statutes is amended by adding
97 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

98 (NEW) (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this
99 section, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report
100 not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, identifying (1)
101 the number of abuse and neglect complaints received and investigated
102 pursuant to this section in the previous calendar year, (2) the disposition
103 of such complaints, and (3) any backlog of investigations relating to such
104 complaints. The commissioner shall post the report on the department's
105 Internet web site and file the report, in accordance with the provisions
106 of section 11-4a, with the joint standing committees of the General
107 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
108 public health.

109 Sec. 5. Section 46a-11c of the general statutes is amended by adding
110 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

111 (NEW) (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of this
112 section, the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report
113 not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, identifying (1)

114 the number of abuse and neglect complaints received and investigated
 115 pursuant to this section in the previous calendar year, including deaths
 116 investigated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (2) the disposition
 117 of such complaints, and (3) any backlog of investigations relating to such
 118 complaints. The commissioner shall post the report on the department's
 119 Internet web site and file the report, in accordance with the provisions
 120 of section 11-4a, with the joint standing committees of the General
 121 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
 122 public health.

123 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than September 30, 2025,
 124 and quarterly thereafter, the Commissioner of Developmental Services
 125 shall file a report describing (1) progress in expending funds
 126 appropriated for programs administered by the Department of
 127 Developmental Services, (2) what services they were spent on, (3)
 128 whether lapsed funds are anticipated at the end of the fiscal year ending
 129 on June thirtieth, (4) if applicable, reasons appropriated funds were not
 130 expended, and (5) waiting lists for services provided by the department.
 131 The commissioner shall file the report, in accordance with the provisions
 132 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing
 133 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 134 relating to human services and public health and post the report on the
 135 Internet web site of the Department of Developmental Services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4-67bb
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-247b(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17a-247f(c)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46a-11c(f)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To consider expanded eligibility criteria and require greater transparency regarding abuse, neglect and death investigations and use of state appropriations.

[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.]