
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7103

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to (1) develop a five-year plan to eliminate the waiting list for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program and add home modification coverage as a service offered through the program and (2) report by October 1, 2025, to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on recommended state appropriations needed to implement the plan. The Katie Beckett program is a Medicaid waiver that allows children with severe physical disabilities to be eligible for Medicaid home- and community-based care. According to DSS, 331 people are currently on the waitlist.

The bill also lowers the maximum age for Katie Beckett participants from 21 to 18. (At age 18, people in this group become eligible for coverage under a different Medicaid program.)

Lastly, the bill requires the DSS commissioner to create a brochure with information on and eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett program. Under the bill, she must distribute the brochure to medical providers by September 1, 2025, including children's hospitals, geneticists, nurses, and social workers. DSS must also include this information at least annually in the department's Medicaid-enrolled provider bulletin.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the change to the maximum participant age is effective July 1, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 467) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported out a substitute that eliminated provisions in the underlying bill that would have required DSS to establish a website for the Katie Beckett program with a portal that could provide initial eligibility screening and waitlist updates.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/13/2025)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (05/05/2025)