



PA 25-42—sHB 7103

Human Services Committee

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP
RECOMMENDATIONS**

SUMMARY: This act 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, 2026, 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.

The act also lowers the maximum age for Katie Beckett participants from 21 to 18. (At age 18, they become eligible for coverage under a different Medicaid program.)

The act requires the DSS commissioner to include information on the waiver program's eligibility criteria and provider reimbursement rates in the department's Medicaid provider bulletins. It also requires DSS to post certain program information on its website.

Lastly, the act requires DSS to annually administer a survey, via mail or e-mail, to applicants on the program's waiting list. The survey must let applicants confirm or update demographic information and choose to remain on the waiting list or be removed. Applicants who do not respond to the survey must remain on the waiting list.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision lowering the maximum age for the program is effective July 1, 2025.

DSS WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS

The act requires the DSS commissioner to publish the following information on the department's website by January 1, 2026:

1. eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett Waiver program, including any income or asset thresholds;
2. a summary of available services under the program;
3. a list of contact information for family support groups and advocacy groups for children and young adults with severe debilitating diseases or conditions;
4. a list of other Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state plan services that offer services for children and young adults described above and eligibility criteria for these programs;

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5. a list of private organizations and state programs that may offer funding for home modification or adaptive equipment for people with disabilities; and
6. a link to the Department of Aging and Disability Services website for information on adaptive equipment purchases or assistive technology loans.