

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1359

(Delegate Conway, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Respite Care - Sunset Extension

This bill extends the termination date relating to the requirement that State residential centers operated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) provide respite care to September 30, 2009. Accordingly, State residential centers will continue reserving the current specified percentage of respite beds in State residential centers to care for individuals with developmental disabilities whose families are caring for those persons in their home for an additional two years. Families caring for individuals with developmental disabilities in their homes must continue to have a choice of obtaining respite care in a State residential center or a community setting.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Governor's fiscal 2008 budget for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) assumes the continuation of respite care services at current levels. Future years further assume the continuation of services.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 178 of 2004 requires State residential centers to provide respite care to individuals with developmental disabilities whose families are caring for those individuals in their home.

Beginning in fiscal 2006: ● the Holly Center, the Potomac Center, and the Brandenburg Center are required to each reserve not more than 4% of their total beds for respite care; and ● the Rosewood Center is required to reserve at least 2% but not more than 4% of its total beds for respite care. Families caring for individuals with developmental disabilities in their homes must have a choice of obtaining respite care in a State residential center or a community setting. These respite care requirements are scheduled to terminate September 30, 2007.

Background: There are 15 respite beds reserved at the four State residential facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities (see **Exhibit 1**). These reserved respite beds exceed the number of licensed beds that must be reserved under current law at two of the centers, the Potomac Center and the Joseph D. Brandenburg Center, as shown below. For the number of reserved respite beds at those two centers to be not more than 4%, there would have to be three respite beds reserved at the Potomac Center and one respite bed reserved at the Brandenburg Center, a reduction of one reserved respite bed at each center. DDA advises that the percentage of reserved respite beds is higher at Potomac and Brandenburg because the administration did not revise its calculation of reserved center respite beds as the number of licensed beds decreased.

Exhibit 1 DDA Respite Bed Availability

	Reserved Respite Beds	Licensed Beds	Percentage of Respite Beds
Holly	4	150	3%
Potomac	4	63	6%
Brandenburg	2	25	8%
Rosewood	5	225	2%
All Centers	15	463	3%

Source: Developmental Disabilities Administration

State Fiscal Effect: DDA advises that the Governor's fiscal 2008 budget assumes continued funding for respite care at existing levels and that DDA would continue to provide respite care in future years past the termination date.

Any reduction in the number of respite beds to correspond to the decline in the number of licensed beds at the Potomac and Brandenburg centers and the maximum percentage of respite beds required to be reserved at those centers is not expected to have a fiscal or operational impact on DDA.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 920 (Senator Colburn) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510