

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 920

(Senator Kasemeyer, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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Developmental Disabilities Administration - Low Intensity Support Services

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This bill specifies that individuals who wish to apply for low-intensity support services (LISS) provided by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) are not required to submit a DDA service application or complete a Medicaid eligibility application if the services will be provided to a minor. The bill also authorizes DDA to develop a simplified LISS application process and generally codifies existing waiver provisions and eligibility criteria. DDA must establish a cap of no less than \$3,000 per individual *per fiscal year* to a qualifying individual and must deliver services dependent on the allocation and availability of funds.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The bill defines "low-intensity support services" as a program designed to enable a family to provide for the needs of a child or an adult with a developmental disability living in the home or support an adult with a developmental disability living in the community. LISS include family support services and individual support services, which must be flexible to meet the needs of individuals or families.

**Current Law/Background:** “Family support services” means a program designed to enable a family to provide for the needs of a child with a developmental disability living in a home. The services include individual and family counseling, personal care, day care, specialized equipment, health services, respite care, housing adaptations, transportation, and other necessary services.

“Individual support services” means a program designed to assist eligible persons in developing their maximum potential and in maintaining themselves in the community. The services include identification services; training and support for self-advocacy; therapeutic services; individual and family counseling; medical equipment purchase, rental, and repair; crisis intervention and follow-up; attendant care; respite services; barrier removal; transportation assistance; community integration services; employment-related services; and other services to maximize independence, productivity, and integration within the community.

The Low-intensity Support Service Program is a statewide program for individuals with a developmental disability. Program services help individuals with developmental disabilities improve their quality of life, remain in their own homes, and increase or maintain independence. Only individuals that do not qualify for Medicaid use LISS.

Regulations specify that “low-intensity support services” are designed to be one-time only; low cost with a cap of \$3,000 per individual per year; or approved by the regional office only if the cost of the services exceeds \$3,000 or the services are needed beyond one calendar year. Eligible applicants may receive LISS on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of service priority determination.

Any applicant for DDA services must submit an application to the department containing the information that the department requires. However, DDA advises that applicants for LISS are not required to submit this application.

Cost containment actions taken by the Board of Public Works in 2009 reduced low-intensity supports by 10%.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1226 (Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2010  
mpc/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 31, 2010

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