

CHAPTER 145

[Engrossed House Bill No. 270]

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY—HABILITATIVE SERVICES

AN ACT Relating to developmentally disabled persons; and adding a new chapter to Title 71 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes the capacity of all citizens of the state, including those with developmental disabilities, to be personally and socially productive. The legislature further recognizes the state's obligation to provide aid to developmentally disabled citizens through a uniform, coordinated system of services to enable them to receive a greater measure of independence and fulfillment and more fully enjoy their rights of citizenship.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(2) "Habilitative services" means services provided by program personnel to assist persons in acquiring and maintaining life skills and to raise their levels of physical, mental, social, and vocational efficiency. Habilitative services include education, training for employment, and therapy.

(3) "Developmental disability" means a disability as defined in RCW 71.20.016.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. To the extent that state, federal, or other funds designated for services to developmentally disabled persons are available, the department shall provide every eligible developmentally disabled person with adequate habilitative services suited to the person's needs regardless of age or degree of developmental disability. These habilitative services shall provide developmentally disabled persons with the opportunity for integration with nonhandicapped and less handicapped persons to the greatest extent possible. No later than ninety days after the effective date of this act, the department, through the division of developmental disabilities, shall establish minimum standards that ensure habilitative services for every eligible developmentally disabled person. The department shall involve consumers, advocates, service providers, and appropriate professionals and local government agencies in the development of the standards.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 71 RCW.

Passed the House March 30, 1983.

Passed the Senate April 16, 1983.

Approved by the Governor April 23, 1983.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 23, 1983.