

Introduced by Senator Thompson

February 27, 1997

An act to amend Section 4501 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to human services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1039, as introduced, M. Thompson. Developmental disabilities: regional centers.

Existing law requires the Department of Developmental Services to contract with regional centers for the provision of various services to persons with developmental disabilities.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the department ensure that regional centers meet their obligations in providing services to persons with developmental disabilities.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4501 of the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code is amended to read:
3 4501. The State of California accepts a responsibility
4 for persons with developmental disabilities and an
5 obligation to them which it must discharge. Affecting
6 hundreds of thousands of children and adults directly, and
7 having an important impact on the lives of their families,
8 neighbors, and whole communities, developmental

1 disabilities present social, medical, economic, and legal
2 problems of extreme importance.

3 The complexities of providing services and supports to
4 persons with developmental disabilities requires the
5 coordination of services of many state departments and
6 community agencies to ensure that no gaps occur in
7 communication or provision of services and supports. A
8 consumer of services and supports, and where
9 appropriate, his or her parents, legal guardian, or
10 conservator, shall have a leadership role in service design.

11 An array of services and supports should be established
12 which is sufficiently complete to meet the needs and
13 choices of each person with developmental disabilities,
14 regardless of age or degree of disability, and at each stage
15 of life and to support their integration into the
16 mainstream life of the community. To the maximum
17 extent feasible, services and supports should be available
18 throughout the state to prevent the dislocation of persons
19 with developmental disabilities from their home
20 communities.

21 Services and supports should be available to enable
22 persons with developmental disabilities to approximate
23 the pattern of everyday living available to people without
24 disabilities of the same age. Consumers of services and
25 supports, and where appropriate, their parents, legal
26 guardian, or conservator, should be empowered to make
27 choices in all life areas. These include promoting
28 opportunities for individuals with developmental
29 disabilities to be integrated into the mainstream of life in
30 their home communities, including supported living and
31 other appropriate community living arrangements. In
32 providing these services, consumers and their families,
33 when appropriate, should participate in decisions
34 affecting their own lives, including, but not limited to,
35 where and with whom they live, their relationships with
36 people in their community, the way in which they spend
37 their time, including education, employment, and
38 leisure, the pursuit of their own personal future, and
39 program planning and implementation. The
40 contributions made by parents and family members in



1 support of their children and relatives with
2 developmental disabilities are important and those
3 relationships should also be respected and fostered, to the
4 maximum extent feasible, so that consumers and their
5 families can build circles of support within the
6 community.

7 The Legislature finds that the mere existence or the
8 delivery of services and supports is, in itself, insufficient
9 evidence of program effectiveness. It is the intent of the
10 Legislature that agencies serving persons with
11 developmental disabilities shall produce evidence that
12 their services have resulted in consumer or family
13 empowerment and in more independent, productive,
14 and normal lives for the persons served. *It is further the*
15 *intent of the Legislature that the Department of*
16 *Developmental Services, through appropriate and*
17 *regular monitoring activities, ensure that regional*
18 *centers meet their statutory, regulatory, and contractual*
19 *obligations in providing services to persons with*
20 *developmental disabilities.* The Legislature declares its
21 intent to monitor program results through continued
22 legislative oversight and review of request for
23 appropriations to support developmental disabilities
24 programs.

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