

- SUBJECT:** Lifespan respite services pilot program
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — Reported favorably as substituted
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Rose, S. King, J. Davis, Eissler, Herrero, Naishtat, Pierson
0 nays
2 absent — Hughes, Parker
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 25 — 29-0
- WITNESSES:** For — *Registered, but did not testify:* Ellen Arnold, National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) provides certain respite care services for older adults and people with disabilities. Certain states are evaluating respite care services as an alternative that could reduce Medicaid expenditures on long-term care services provided in institutional settings.
- DIGEST:** SB 1865 would require DADS to develop and implement a lifespan services pilot program to promote the provision of respite services. As part of the pilot program, the department would contract with community-based organizations or local governmental entities to provide respite services or to facilitate access to local respite services. A contract could be awarded only after DADS issued a request for proposals regarding the contract.

SB 1865 would define respite services as support services, including in-home services, adult day-care services, and facility-based services, that were provided for the purpose of temporarily providing relief to a primary caregiver who provided ongoing care to an individual with a chronic illness or disability.

A community-based organization or local governmental entity that received a contract to facilitate access to local respite services could:

- recruit and train respite services providers;
- maintain a registry of respite services providers;
- connect caregivers with available respite services providers or programs;
- identify, coordinate, and develop community resources for respite services;
- build local partnerships with respect to respite services;
- implement public awareness activities regarding respite services; and
- subject to the availability of funds, provide vouchers for respite services to eligible primary caregivers who were not eligible for respite services provided through other programs.

DADS would provide technical assistance and policy and program development support to the community-based organization and local governments with which it contracted. The department would select the areas in which the pilot would be implemented and would monitor the contractors' activities.

By November 1, 2008, DADS would submit a report to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board regarding the lifespan respite services pilot. The report would include an evaluation of the effect of the pilot on access to respite services and Medicaid expenditure for long-term care services provided in institutional care settings.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2007.

NOTES:

The fiscal note indicates a cost of \$325,586 in general revenue in fiscal 2008-09.