

April 30, 2010

The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 5303, relating to Agency for Persons with Disabilities:

- Directs the agency to develop and implement a comprehensive redesign of the home and community-based services delivery system. The system created in section 393.0662, Florida Statutes, develops individual budgets (iBudgets), a system designed to improve the financial management of waiver services.
- Includes a new assessment instrument (the Department of Children and Family Services' "Individual Cost Guidelines") for use when assigning individuals to waiver tiers.
- Includes age as a characteristic for the purpose of tier assignment. In addition, the amendment specifies that individuals enrolled in tier four on July 1, 2007, are assigned to tier four without the need for further assessment.
- Establishes an expenditure cap on tier 1 at \$150,000 per client each year with some exceptions for individuals who need intensive behavioral services or special medical home care as identified in the Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook.
- Reduces the expenditure caps on home and community based waiver tiers 2, 3, and 4 by 2.5 percent and reduces service provider rates by a corresponding 2.5 percent.
- Directs Medicaid administrative hearings requested by clients or their representatives, who have any substantial interest determined by the agency, to be conducted by the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to s. 409.285, F.S.
- Establishes the Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities Task Force to make recommendations and develop a plan for the creation of, and enrollment in, the Developmental Disabilities Savings Program.
- The amendment has an effective date of July 1, 2010.