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SENATE BILL 1494

By Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33
and Title 71, relative to services and supports for
people with disabilities.

WHEREAS, having an intellectual or developmental disability can significantly impact a

person's capacity to perform day-to-day activities such as eating, dressing, grooming, using the

restroom, finding and maintaining employment, and many other activities representing skills that

most Tennesseans take for granted; and

WHEREAS, appropriate services can ensure that people with an intellectual or

developmental disability can lead productive and fulfilling lives within their homes, families,

schools, workplaces, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the lack of services can lead to the limitation of physical, emotional,

intellectual, and social capacity, which ultimately compromises not only the quality of life, but

also health, family economics, and life expectancy for persons with an intellectual or

developmental disability; and

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of providing continuous support at no cost to the state, these

elderly custodial parents and custodial caregivers deserve the comfort of knowing their family

member will have needed services; and

WHEREAS, this situation calls for changes to the administration of the referral list; now,

therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-5-112, is amended by deleting the

section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

A eligible person with an intellectual or developmental disability who is on the referral list for services and whose older custodial parent, or custodial caregiver, attains seventy-five (75) years of age shall be enrolled in employment and community first choices Group 5 or a similarly capped home and community based services program within six (6) months of the person's parent or caregiver attaining that age.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.