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Ron Amstutz
Speaker Pro Tempore

Senate Finance Committee
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Substitute House Bill 483: DODD Update
State Representative Ron Amstutz

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, Ranking Minority Member Skindell and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present Substitute House Bill 483.

The original bill was drafted based on recommendations from Director Martin and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. It seeks to update several programs. The bill will be given more detailed explanation in Director Martin's testimony, but I will outline the new provisions that were included in the substitute version.

ABLE Account

Substitute House Bill 483 allows participants to take a personal income tax deduction for contributions to an "Achieve a Better Living Experience" (or commonly known as ABLE) savings account, which is used to pay qualified disability expenses of a beneficiary. In addition, this makes Ohio law consistent with U.S. Treasury Regulations, so that out-of-state residents can participate in the Ohio ABLE program.

Recoupments from ICF/IID

DODD may exempt an ICF/IID provider from a recoupment if the provider demonstrates they made a good faith effort to complete the downsizing by July 1, 2018, but delay occurred for reasons beyond the provider's control.

Medicaid Payments

DODD must make a Medicaid payment to an ICF/IID that reserves a bed for a resident who is temporarily absent due to a participation in pre-certification visits to potential new residential settings, required in the certification process.

Medicaid Cost Reports

An ICF/IID that downsizes or partially converts on or before the first day of October of a calendar year must file an additional Medicaid cost report. It specifies the period for which the additional cost report is to be used to determine an ICF/IID's Medicaid payment rate.

In addition to these provisions, Sub. H.B. 483 clarifies that a county board of developmental disabilities (county DD board) may provide insurance through an individual or joint self-insurance program. It expands the medications and health care services to ICFs with 17 or more residential beds in a manner that parallels the procedures in smaller facilities. Also, this bill provides an agreed to resolution of concerns about administration of breathing exercises involving a spirometer device.

The House Finance Committee also amended the bill to authorize some developmental disabilities property tax levies to update their ballot language to reflect their changing missions. It authorizes more of these levies to be combined into a single levy going forward.

Another amendment provides a path for tracking and reporting the placement of residents of Developmental Centers when those centers close.

I want to thank the Department for bringing forward the original recommendations to the Legislature. I look forward to working with the Senate and interested parties in the upcoming weeks.