

SB 98 Adult Foster Care for Disabled One Page Summary

What does this bill do?

This bill provides an opportunity for enhanced support for caregivers of individuals with disabilities who are in foster care and aging out of the foster care system. This bill establishes a new residential setting category, “adult foster care home,” in which those youth with disabilities who are in foster care can continue to live with their current foster family after leaving state’s custody. This bill allows for a continuity of care for the individual and provides the necessary support for the family that is continuing to provide this care, with decreased administrative burden than is normally required for an adult assisted living home.

Why is this bill needed?

Youth who experience disabilities that would otherwise require a level of care provided in an institution can qualify for waiver services, including residential services. In these cases, a foster parent can receive a daily foster care stipend or may become certified to provide child family home habilitation to the youth. Payment rates for both are intended to cover the recipient’s need for 24/7 care. In certain situations, and if justified in a child’s support plan, personal care services can also be provided to the child in the licensed home.

When youth transition to adulthood, the foster care payment is no longer available because the youth is no longer in OCS custody. Other options to support their living needs either pay less or have higher requirements for certification; do not allow personal care services to be provided; and would require the foster parent to license their home as an assisted living home. The bill aims to create an adult foster care option in statute that allows for the youth to remain in the same home they have been living; enable the foster parent to continue to receive adequate support to provide 24/7 care; allow for personal care services if the individual’s support plan demonstrates this need; and provide oversight to ensure that the home is a safe and positive setting in which the individual’s needs can be met, without requiring that the home setting be licensed as an assisted living home.

This bill will provide a new license type, similar to the current child foster care home license, that will provide structured services and family continuity for disabled youth after aging out of the traditional foster care system. The bill also will create a new service, adult foster care, that will ensure providers are qualified and supported in providing care to these individuals.

How many individuals will this bill affect?

On March 1, 2021, 50 foster care youth were either placed on a home and community-based waiver or were waiting to receive these services. The Office of Children’s Services estimates that a maximum of 10 of these youth will age out of the foster care system each year.

What is the fiscal impact of this bill?

Fiscal Note Summary:

FN #	Component	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Medicaid Services		\$1,259.2	\$1,679.0	\$2,098.8	\$2,518.5	\$2,938.2
2	Sr & Disabilities Svcs Admin		\$119.5	\$119.5	\$119.5	\$119.5	\$119.5
3	Residential Licensing	\$117.9	\$114.9	\$114.9	\$114.9	\$114.9	\$232.8
	TOTAL	\$117.9	\$1,374.1	\$1,913.4	\$2,333.2	\$2,752.9	\$3,290.5

Prepared by the Department of Health and Social Services. Please contact Tony Newman at the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services with questions: 465-5481.