



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

Date 3/28/22

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H.720 – an act relating to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities

As passed by the House

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0720/H-0720%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20House%20Unofficial.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill proposes several initiatives for improving the system of care for Vermonters with developmental disabilities including several that will have fiscal implications.

- Sec. 3 would require the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) to perform annual quality reviews to the designated agencies (DA's), the specialized service agencies (SSA's) and other contracted agencies. This will require five new positions at an estimated cost of \$506,158 gross (\$253,079 General Funds). The Governors recommended budget included 10 new classified positions in DAIL. It is proposed five of those positions will be repurposed for this bill in the House passed version H.740 – an act relating to making appropriations for the support of Government. As such **no further appropriation would be required** for this section of the bill.
- Sec. 4 would create a limited-service position of the Residential Program Developer within DAIL. It is estimated this position would cost between \$85,000 to \$120,000 per year (including wages, benefits, and other associated costs). Sec. 4 includes an **appropriation of \$102,000 to DAIL** from the Home-and-Community-Based Services (HCBS) Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding.
- Sec. 5 includes an **appropriation of \$500,000 (gross) to DAIL** from the Home-and-Community-Based Services (HCBS) Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions of the state for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Sec. 5 also requires DAIL to convene a nine-member steering committee to provide advice and guidance as it develops and selects the pilot planning grants. Steering committee members would be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. Assuming all nine-members attend eight meetings, these per diem cost would be \$9,090. This expense is minimal and can be absorbed within DAIL's budget. As such, **no appropriation would be required**. The steering

committee would sunset on January 1, 2024.

- Sec. 7 would require the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to seek to amend its federal Home- and Community-Based Service Spending Plan to enable DAIL to use Global Commitment HCBS FMAP monies to fund the new Residential Program Developer position created in Sec. 4 and the pilot planning grants in Sec. 5.

Fiscal Summary

The bill includes two appropriations to DAIL from the HCBS FMAP monies.

- Sec. 4 - \$102,000 to create a limited service position.
- Sec. 5 - \$500,000 to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions in the state.