

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2387 (Grayson)

As Amended May 4, 2020

Majority vote

SUMMARY:

Authorizes counties to perform In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) needs assessments by telephone if the recipient meets certain conditions, including, but not limited to, history of at least one in-person assessment since initial program intake.

Major Provisions

- 1) Authorizes a county to perform a needs assessment for recipient's continuing monthly need for IHSS by telephone if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The recipient has had at least one in-person assessment since the initial program intake for determination of eligibility and scope of services;
 - b) The recipient has not changed their residence since the previous assessment nor to the knowledge of the county, have any other relevant circumstances changed since the previous assessment;
 - c) The recipient is not seeking an increase in the number of authorized hours, or the recipient is already receiving the maximum number of authorized hours;
 - d) The recipient is unaware of any change in the recipient's circumstances that would result in consideration of a reduction of current authorized services or hours; and,
 - e) There is no pending investigation or case with adult protective services or child protective services with respect to the recipient.
- 2) Requires a county to address the same issues in an assessment conducted by telephone that would be addressed in an in-person assessment.
- 3) Requires the county to notify the recipient within 30 days of a proposed assessment by telephone and, further, requires the county to provide the recipient with the option to have an in-person assessment.
- 4) Makes technical changes.

COMMENTS:

In-Home Supportive Services Program: The IHSS program in California is available to eligible low-income individuals who need assistance with daily living tasks and personal care services. To qualify for the state established program, an individual must be at least 65 years old, living with a disability, or blind. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) oversees IHSS, and the program is administered at the county level.

IHSS Needs Assessments: An applicant for the IHSS program is assessed by a county social worker to determine eligibility and specific need. During this visit, the county social worker

takes into consideration the mental and physical health of the applicant, their current living situation, and the time it takes to complete daily tasks. The eligibility of the applicant is then determined using a combination of the face-to-face assessment and a medical certification authorized by a physician. IHSS recipients have their circumstances and needs reassessed by a county social worker on at least an annual basis, but a county social worker may reassess a recipient, in an interval less than every 12 months, if they receive information that the need for services is expected to decrease in the next year. In times deemed necessary, such as the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, CDSS has released All County Letters (ACLs) to provide counties temporary flexibility for conducting these assessments.

Need for this bill: This bill seeks to allow counties the option to perform IHSS needs assessments by telephone if the recipient meets certain conditions, as specified. Allowing program reassessments to be conducted over the phone may create greater flexibility, assisting with the caseload management for county social workers as the number of IHSS recipients grows.

According to the Author:

"This bill will provide greater flexibility and efficiency for IHSS clients and county social workers alike. Through the availability of telephonic assessments, annual reassessments for IHSS clients meeting specified criteria can be streamlined to ensure that annual reassessments reduce delays and difficulties in scheduling with county social workers managing several cases."

Arguments in Support:

The sponsor of the bill, Contra Costa County, states that "[Because of this bill,] minor savings may be realized in counties with a large number of overdue assessments, as social workers would have less travel needs and may be able to assess more clients each day. Additionally, the option of telephonic reassessments will allow counties to improve its response and better focus its limited and scarce resources."

Arguments in Opposition:

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS:

This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

VOTES:

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 8-0-0

YES: Reyes, Mathis, Arambula, Flora, Friedman, Gipson, Maienschein, Mark Stone

UPDATED:

VERSION: May 4, 2020

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