
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 143	Hearing Date:	June 25, 2025
Author:	Committee on Budget		
Version:	June 24, 2025 Amended		
Urgency:	Yes	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Elizabeth Schmitt		

Subject: Developmental services

Summary: Provides for statutory changes necessary to enact human services related provisions of the Budget Act of 2025.

Proposed Law: As part of the 2025-26 budget package, this bill makes statutory changes to implement the budget act. The bill includes the following provisions:

- 1) Makes regional center implicit bias training subject to an appropriation by the Legislature.
- 2) Changes the expiration date of the current “hold harmless” policy for developmental services providers whose rates exceed rate model recommendations from June 30, 2026 to February 28, 2026.
- 3) Beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year, requires a developmental services provider to be compliant with electronic visit verification, home- and community-based services rules, and applicable annual fiscal reviews and audit requirements as a condition of eligibility for the quality incentive program.
- 4) Establishes ongoing meeting and reporting requirements related to implementation of the Master Plan for Developmental Services.
- 5) Makes regional center health and safety waiver assistance subject to appropriation by the Legislature.
- 6) Requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), with input from the community, as specified, to issue a written directive defining the term “cost effective,” for the purposes of all programs, including but not limited to the Self-Determination Program, no later than August 1, 2026.
- 7) Makes various changes to the DDS Self-Determination Program, as follows:
 - a. Requires DDS to reduce barriers to participation and improve equity in enrollment by establishing, with community input, no later than March 1, 2027, statewide standardized processes and procedures for the Self-Determination Program. These standardized processes and procedures relate to enrollment, individual budgets, spending plans, financial management services, and access to transition supports.

- b. Requires initial individual budgets in the Self-Determination Program to be the total amount of the most recently available 12 months of purchase of service authorizations, services authorized by the Individual Program Plan (IPP) team but not currently provided in a purchase of service authorization, less services paid for by the regional center outside of the self-determination program and one-time expenses.
 - c. Requires the IPP team to discuss unmet needs for participants with no or low purchases of services.
 - d. Allows participants to transfer between service codes and budget categories upon the approval of the regional center or the participant's IPP team. Requires regional centers to provide timely authorization to the participant's financial management service.
 - e. Requires regional centers to certify participant spending plans to verify that goods and services satisfy the following criteria: (1) address the individual's desired outcomes identified in their IPP; (2) are not available from generic services; and (3) are eligible for federal financial participation.
- 8) Commencing July 1, 2025, requires the hourly rate for the tailored day service option to be set by DDS and posted on its website.
- 9) Repeals the parental fee program.
- 10) Makes various changes to employment services, including defining group supported employment ratios as low as one to two and as high as 1 to 8. Requires hourly rates for employment services to be set by DDS and posted to its website.
- 11) Makes various technical and conforming changes.

Fiscal Effect: Appropriates \$2.78 million from the General Fund to DDS for project planning activities at regional centers associated with the Life Outcomes Improvement System.

Support: None on file.

Opposed: None on file.

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