



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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**Public Act 23-137 (House Bill 5001) An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons With An Intellectual or Developmental Disability.**

This fact sheet provides a simplified overview of the sections of Public Act 23-137 that are relevant to the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Section 1:

- DDS is required to create a plan for establishing a Transitional Life Skills College Program.
- This program is aimed at individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are at least 22 years old and transitioning to independent living with support from DDS.
- DDS must submit recommendations for the program to the legislature by January 1, 2025.

Section 2:

- DDS must participate in a working group with other state agencies, led by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to develop a workforce plan.
- The goal is to increase employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- OPM is required to report any recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2025.

Section 3:

- DDS must collaborate with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and OPM to reduce waiting lists for services for individuals with intellectual disability.
- Starting from January 1, 2024, DDS and the new OPM coordinator of services must provide annual reports to the legislature.
- These reports will include information about the number of people waiting for services, additions or removals from the waiting list, and changes in the waiting list during the previous year.

Section 4:

- DDS must join a working group with other state agencies, led by OPM, to develop new statutory definitions for intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The working group will evaluate whether IQ should be a factor in these definitions.
- The group will also assess the level of need (LON) assessment tool to determine if updates are necessary.

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- OPM is required to report the working group's findings to the legislature by January 1, 2025.

#### Sections 9 & 10:

- DDS, along with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF), must develop guidelines and best practices.
- These guidelines aim to help municipalities implement emergency services awareness programs for individuals with intellectual disability, autism, and developmental disabilities.
- The guidelines will be published on the respective websites of DDS, DESPP, and DCF by December 31, 2023.

#### Section 11:

- The Chief Workforce Officer, in collaboration with DDS and other state agencies, must review workforce hiring and retention issues.
- The focus is on providers and businesses serving individuals with intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, autism, physical disabilities, and elderly persons.

#### Section 12:

- DDS is required to work with the DDS Council, Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council, and Aging and Disability Services to review the current bill of rights for individuals with intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, and autism.
- The purpose is to determine if any updates are needed.

#### Section 13:

- DDS must participate in a working group with other state agencies, led by OPM, to develop an online secure portal.
- This portal will facilitate the sharing of information across different state agencies.

#### Section 20:

- The Department of Transportation (DOT) must consult with DDS and transit districts to study the need for statewide and local transportation for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- A report on this study is due to the legislature by January 1, 2025.

#### Section 23:

- DDS, subject to available funds, must establish a pilot program for nonmedical transportation services in the northwest region.
- DDS is required to issue a request for proposal for this program by December 1, 2023.
- DDS must report on the program to the legislature by January 1, 2025.

#### Section 24:

- The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in collaboration with DDS and other state agencies, must develop a training video for bus drivers on interacting with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- The video will be posted on the respective websites of DMV and DDS.
- Starting from January 1, 2024, individuals applying for or renewing public passenger endorsements must review the video.

Section 53:

- DDS must provide grants to private non-profit organizations for supportive housing for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- DDS is required to develop and publish guidelines for these grants on their website by July 1, 2024.
- DDS must submit a report on the expenditure of grant funds to the legislature by January 1, 2025.

Section 54:

- DDS, along with the Department of Housing and the Department of Correction, must create a plan for community-based group homes for individuals with intellectual disability transitioning from the correctional system.
- DDS must report any recommendations to the Department of Correction by January 1, 2024.

Section 60:

- DDS is required to request an amendment to current waivers, allowing payment to caregivers who are legal guardians of individuals with intellectual disabilities.