



Senate Aging & Youth Committee

Senator Bob Mensch

Chairman

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Analysis Senate Bill 860, P.N. 981

Prime Sponsor: Senator Charles McIlhinney

Overview

Amends the Public Welfare Code to further provide for costs and rates paid by counties for child protection and juvenile justice contracted placement services.

Summary

Requires the Department of Public Welfare to reimburse county institution districts for no less than 75% and no more than 90% of nonbasic education programs providing intensified educational opportunities and services to dependent and delinquent youth who are under the care of juvenile court, and who participate in programs intended to enable youth to attain expected grade level or provide career and technical training opportunities not otherwise available to dependent and delinquent youth through basic education programs.

Permits county children and youth offices to purchase services from private providers. When a county elects to purchase prevention, in home, foster family care, group home or residential or institution services from a private agency the following will apply:

- Contracted rates for purchased services must cover reasonable costs incurred.
- Purchase-of-service contracts must include contract extension language to provide for continuation of service until a new contract agreement is signed.
- Purchase-of-service contrasts shall include a timely payment provision to require counties to make payment within thirty days of receipt on an invoice.

Requires the department to convene a rate methodology task force within sixty days to develop guidelines for a process to determine calculation of the actual cost of service purchased and make recommendations to the General Assembly within nine months of being convened. The task force will be comprised of the following:

- The Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth and Families or a designee
- One representative for each of the Program and Fiscal Bureaus of the Office of Children, Youth and Families
- Two representatives from County Children and Youth offices
- Two representatives from County Juvenile Probation offices
- One representative from the County Commissioners Association or a county commissioner or executive
- No fewer than five private service provider agencies representing the diversity of purchased services
- One representative from the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services
- One representative from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Requires county needs-based plan and implementation budget requests to reflect the actual and reasonable projected costs of purchases services in submissions for requested funding.

Effective Date

60 days