

HB 659 -- MEDICAID WAIVER

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Social Services and the Department of Mental Health to jointly apply for a waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to provide services for persons who:

- (1) Are institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization;
- (2) Are under 18 years of age;
- (3) Have a physical disability with a co-occurring developmental disability; and
- (4) Meet the financial eligibility criteria established by the waiver.

Services and access to services under the waiver are limited and based on available funding and program capacity.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that we have a current program that provides services to developmentally disabled children, and this bill will allow the state to shift some of the slots in that program to other children who aren't eligible for the current program but are in need of services.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shields and Valerie Huhn, Department of Mental Health.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.