

HB4624



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4624

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Rep. Michelle Mussman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 1305/10-26

Amends the Department of Human Services Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database.

LRB102 24342 KTG 33576 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Human Services Act is amended
5 by changing Section 10-26 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-26)

7 Sec. 10-26. The PUNS database.

8 (a) The Department of Human Services shall compile and
9 maintain a database of Illinois residents with an intellectual
10 disability or a developmental disability, including an autism
11 spectrum disorder, and Illinois residents with an intellectual
12 disability or a developmental disability who are also
13 diagnosed with a physical disability or mental illness and are
14 in need of developmental disability services funded by ~~the~~ the
15 Department. The database shall be referred to as the
16 Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) and
17 shall include, but not be limited to, children and youth,
18 individuals transitioning from special education to
19 post-secondary activities, individuals living at home or in
20 the community, individuals in private nursing and residential
21 facilities, and individuals in intermediate care facilities
22 for persons with developmental disabilities. Individuals who
23 are receiving services under any home and community-based

1 services waiver program authorized under Section 1915(c) of
2 the Social Security Act may remain on the PUNS database until
3 they are offered services through a PUNS selection or
4 demonstrate the need for and are awarded alternative services.

5 (b) The PUNS database shall be used to foster a fair and
6 orderly process for processing applications for developmental
7 disabilities services funded by the Department, verifying
8 information, keeping individuals and families who have applied
9 for services informed of available services and anticipated
10 wait times, determining unmet need, and informing the General
11 Assembly and the Governor of unmet need statewide and within
12 each representative district.

13 (c) Independent service coordination agencies shall be the
14 points of entry for individuals and families applying for
15 developmental disability services funded by the Department.
16 The information collected and maintained for PUNS shall
17 include, but is not limited to, the following: (i) the types of
18 services of which the individual is potentially in need; (ii)
19 demographic and identifying information about the individual;
20 (iii) factors indicating need, including diagnoses, assessment
21 information, ages of primary caregivers, and current living
22 situation; (iv) the date information about the individual is
23 submitted for inclusion in PUNS, and the types of services
24 sought by the individual; and (v) the representative district
25 in which the individual resides. In collecting and maintaining
26 information under this Section, the Department shall give

1 consideration to cost-effective appropriate services for
2 individuals.

3 (d) The Department shall respond to inquiries about
4 anticipated PUNS selection dates and make available a
5 Department e-mail address for such inquiries. Subject to
6 appropriation, the Department shall offer a web-based
7 verification and information-update application. The
8 Department shall make all reasonable efforts to contact
9 individuals on the PUNS database at least 2 times each year and
10 provide information about the PUNS process, information
11 regarding services that may be available to them prior to the
12 time they are selected from PUNS, and advice on preparing for
13 and seeking developmental disability services. At least one of
14 the contacts must be from an independent service coordination
15 agency. The Department may contact individuals on the PUNS
16 database through a newsletter prepared by the Division of
17 Developmental Disabilities. The Department shall provide
18 information about PUNS to the general public on its website.

19 (e) This amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly does
20 not create any new entitlement to a service, program, or
21 benefit but shall not affect any entitlement to a service,
22 program, or benefit created by any other law. Except for a
23 service, program, or benefit that is an entitlement, a
24 service, program, or benefit provided as a result of the
25 collection and maintenance of PUNS shall be subject to
26 appropriations made by the General Assembly.

1 (f) The Department, consistent with applicable federal and
2 State law, shall make general information about PUNS available
3 to the public such as: (i) the number of individuals
4 potentially in need of each type of service, program, or
5 benefit; and (ii) the general characteristics of those
6 individuals. The Department shall protect the confidentiality
7 of each individual in PUNS when releasing database information
8 by not disclosing any personally identifying information.

9 (g) The Department shall allow an individual who is:

10 (1) a legal resident;

11 (2) a dependent of a military service member; and

12 (3) absent from the State due to the member's military
13 service;

14 to be added to PUNS to indicate the need for services upon
15 return to the State. If the individual is selected from PUNS to
16 receive services, the individual shall have 6 months from the
17 date of the selection notification to apply for services and
18 another 6 months to commence using the services. If an
19 individual is receiving services funded by the Department and
20 the services are disrupted due to the military service
21 member's need for the individual to leave the State because of
22 the member's military service, the services shall be resumed
23 upon the individual's return to the State if the individual is
24 otherwise eligible. No payment made in accordance with this
25 Section or Section 12-4.47 of the Illinois Public Aid Code
26 shall be made for home and community based services provided

1 outside the State of Illinois. The individual is required to
2 provide the following to the Department:

3 (i) a copy of the military service member's DD-214 or
4 other equivalent discharge paperwork; and

5 (ii) proof of the military service member's legal
6 residence in the State, as prescribed by the Department.

7 (Source: P.A. 101-284, eff. 8-9-19.)