

1 AN ACT concerning health.

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

4 Section 5. The Developmental Disability and Mental
5 Disability Services Act is amended by adding the heading of
6 Article VI and Sections 6-1, 6-5, and 6-10 as follows:

7 (405 ILCS 80/Art. VI heading new)

8 ARTICLE VI. COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CHOICES PROGRAM

9 (405 ILCS 80/6-1 new)

10 Sec. 6-1. Community Residential Choices Program.

11 (a) The purpose of this Article is to establish a Community
12 Residential Choices Program to allow a person with a
13 developmental disability to participate in a community-based
14 residential program where he or she is grouped in a home with
15 no more than 3 housemates, each of whom has a developmental
16 disability, whose disabilities, interests, service needs,
17 ages, and gender are compatible. Priority placement under the
18 program shall be allocated to individuals who have chosen to
19 live together. Each participant in the Community Residential
20 Choices Program shall have his or her own individual private
21 bedroom. The Community Residential Choices Program shall be
22 available to persons over the age of 18 who do not meet the

1 Department's criteria for being in crisis.

2 (b) For purposes of this Article:

3 "Community-based residential program" means one of a
4 variety of living arrangements for persons with developmental
5 disabilities, including existing settings such as
6 community-integrated living arrangements, community
7 residential alternatives, assisted residential care, supported
8 residential care, and adult foster care, and may also include
9 newly developed settings that are consistent with this
10 definition.

11 "Developmental disability" includes an autism spectrum
12 disorder.

13 A person diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder may be
14 assessed for eligibility for services under Home and
15 Community-Based Services Waivers for persons with
16 developmental disabilities, without regard to whether that
17 person is also diagnosed with mental retardation, so long as
18 the person otherwise meets applicable level-of-care criteria
19 under those waivers. This provision does not create any new
20 entitlement to a service, program, or benefit, but shall not
21 affect any entitlement to a service, program, or benefit
22 created by any other law.

23 (405 ILCS 80/6-5 new)

24 Sec. 6-5. Program sites and placements. Commencing with the
25 State fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007, subject to

1 appropriation, the Department shall establish Community
2 Residential Choices Program sites in geographic locations
3 throughout the State. For the State fiscal year beginning July
4 1, 2007, the Department shall make non-crisis placements
5 available to no fewer than 80 persons. For the State fiscal
6 years beginning on July 1, 2008 and July 1, 2009, the
7 Department shall establish non-crisis placements for an
8 additional 80 persons each year. If the non-crisis placements
9 cannot be filled with individuals who have chosen roommates,
10 the Department shall reserve those placements for individuals
11 who are not considered in crisis and shall develop a protocol
12 for ascertaining the compatibility of individuals living
13 together. The Department, by rule, shall establish procedures
14 for application, evaluation, selection of roommates, and
15 placement into the Community Residential Choices Program.

16 (405 ILCS 80/6-10 new)

17 Sec. 6-10. Reimbursement rates. The Department shall
18 reimburse each provider of a Community Residential Choices
19 Program at the customary rate for a community-based residential
20 program for persons with developmental disabilities, including
21 necessary and appropriate support services.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
23 becoming law.