



Sen. Heather A. Steans

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09700SB1614sam001

LRB097 09399 KTG 51924 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1614

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 1614 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental
5 Disabilities Administrative Act is amended by adding Section
6 4.4 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1705/4.4 new)

8 Sec. 4.4. State-operated 6-bed group homes.

9 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that the
10 Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental
11 Disabilities is steadily shifting service provision from
12 State-operated developmental centers to smaller
13 community-based settings. Whether that process is due to
14 changes in philosophy on how to best serve individuals with
15 disabilities, changing individual and family choices, or an
16 attempt to capture cost savings from the substantially lower

1 wages and benefits paid to the direct care workers in
2 alternative settings, one indisputable outcome of this process
3 is the replacement of a highly experienced and adequately
4 compensated workforce with a poorly compensated and much more
5 transitory workforce. Inadequate compensation is one of the
6 primary causes of the high employee turnover rate in community
7 settings. Numerous studies have shown that a more stable and
8 experienced workforce creates better outcomes for individuals
9 with developmental disabilities. Conversely, very high
10 turnover can contribute to emotional distress and disruption in
11 the lives of individuals. The failure to develop a fairly
12 compensated and stable workforce has been a key obstacle to
13 creating a uniformly high quality system of care in
14 community-based settings.

15 (b) Pilot program. In order to determine the efficacy of
16 improving quality of care by ensuring a more fairly compensated
17 workforce, and in consultation with stakeholders, including
18 the collective bargaining representative of the majority of
19 employees working in State-operated developmental centers, the
20 Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental
21 Disabilities shall develop a pilot program of State-operated
22 community-based group homes.

23 (c) Residential accommodations. Each State-operated
24 community-based group home shall provide residential
25 accommodations for up to 6 individuals with developmental
26 disabilities.

1 (d) Staffing. The State-operated community-based group
2 homes shall be staffed by Department employees whose
3 compensation and rights shall be governed by existing
4 collective bargaining agreements."