

AN ACT concerning health.

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

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

(405 ILCS 80/Art. VI heading new)

ARTICLE VI. COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CHOICES PROGRAM

(405 ILCS 80/6-1 new)

Sec. 6-1. Community Residential Choices Program.

(a) The purpose of this Article is to promote greater compatibility among individuals with developmental disabilities who live together by allowing individuals with developmental disabilities who meet either the emergency or critical need criteria of the Department of Human Services as defined under the Department's developmental disabilities cross-disability database (as required by Section 10-26 of the Department of Human Services Act), and who also meet the Department's developmental disabilities priority population criteria for residential services as defined in the Department's developmental disabilities Community Services Agreement and whose parents are over the age of 60, to choose

to live together in a community-based residential program.

(b) For purposes of this Article:

"Community-based residential program" means one of a variety of living arrangements for persons with developmental disabilities, including existing settings such as community-integrated living arrangements, and may also include newly developed settings that are consistent with this definition.

"Developmental disability" may include an autism spectrum disorder.

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

(405 ILCS 80/6-5 new)

Sec. 6-5. Placements. Commencing with the State fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007, subject to appropriation, the Department of Human Services shall fund residential capacities in geographic locations in the State with the goal of placing

no fewer than 80 individuals who meet the emergency or critical need criteria of the Department's developmental disabilities cross-disabilities database, and who also meet the Department's developmental disabilities priority population criteria for residential services as defined in the Department's developmental disabilities Community Services Agreement and whose parents are over the age of 60, in community-based residential programs with chosen housemates. Priority in the allocation of funds for this program shall be given to individuals who choose to reside with 3 or fewer individuals.

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