



AB 1005 (Alvarez): In-Home Support Services Reform

Bill Summary

This bill will provide In-Home Support Services (IHSS) application assistance to vulnerable hospital patients interested in IHSS.

Background

Under existing law, the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, administered by the State Department of Social Services and counties, under which qualified aged, blind, or disabled persons are provided with supportive services in order to permit them to remain in their own homes.

As a condition of receiving services under the IHSS program, existing law requires an applicant or recipient to obtain a certification from a licensed health care professional declaring that the applicant or recipient is unable to perform some activities of daily living independently, and that without services to assist the applicant or recipient with activities of daily living, the applicant is at risk of placement in out-of-home care. This would be done in a timely manner to complete the health care certification prior to authorization, except under certain circumstances.

A potential IHSS provider must complete a four step process within 90 days after they first enroll into the program.

For an IHSS recipient applicant, they complete a Health Care Certification form while the applicant is assessed by a county social worker for their needs in order to be able to assign an IHSS provider. The IHSS application will then be either denied or accepted within an unspecified amount of time. However the processing of the forms, assigning of IHSS providers, and bringing the patient home may take a lot of time. Unfortunately, when dealing with a terminally ill patient that is

beginning the process, this lengthy process often outlives them. The root of the problem is, we do not have a separate process for terminally ill patients, whose

shortened timeline requires an expedited process, to become an IHSS recipient.

Details of the Bill

AB-1005 does the following:

- a) Requires the hospital's designated case manager or discharge planner to evaluate the patient's likely need for post hospital services and ability to access those services.
- b) Requires the hospital case manager or discharge planner to ask the patient or authorized person if they are interested in receiving information about the IHSS program if that patient is anticipated to need in-home personal care. If interest is expressed, the bill would require the hospital case manager or discharge planner to provide to the patient or authorized person the information, including how to initiate the application process and the option for a family member to provide care as an IHSS provider subject to the IHSS provider enrollment conditions.
- c) Requires the hospital case manager or discharge planner to communicate to the patient's primary care physician the patient's interest in applying for IHSS to support the timely completion of the health care certification form.

Support

- California Commission on Aging
- California Senior Legislature
- Compassion & Choices
- UDW/AFSCME Local 3930

For More Information

Cynthia Yepez, Legislative Assistant
Assemblymember David Alvarez, District 80
Office: 916-319-2080
Cynthia.Yepez@asm.ca.gov