



## **AB 1005 (Alvarez) In-Home Support Services Reform**

### **Bill Summary**

This bill will reform the In-home Support Services (IHSS) program to expedite the processes of becoming a IHSS recipient when given a terminal diagnosis.

### **Background and Problem**

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.

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.

AB-1005 is about undergoing the expedition of the processes of assigning, certifying, and providing IHSS care through the IHSS program by:

- a) Requiring health care providers to inform patients that were just diagnosed with a terminal illness (or whoever is authorized to make health decisions for the patient) of the IHSS program, the IHSS eligibility criteria, and the option for family to become certified as the patient's IHSS provider before discharged.
- b) Provide the patient with the application to become an
- c) Ensuring that the county processes any IHSS provider and IHSS applications within a timely manner.
- d) Requiring prioritization of these applications.
- e) Guaranteeing an amount of hours for IHSS care that the county deems appropriate until it determines a suitable amount of hours through the patient's needs assessment.

### **For More Information**

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### **Details of the Bill**