

CHAPTER 2026-129

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 565

An act relating to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities; amending s. 393.063, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “developmental disability”; defining the term “Tatton-Brown-Rahman syndrome”; amending s. 393.0655, F.S.; requiring level 2 employment screening for all employees of residential facilities and adult day training programs; requiring the agency to contract with a state university to develop and administer certain surveys; providing requirements for such surveys; requiring the state university to submit a certain report to the agency by a specified date; requiring the agency to conduct public hearings on specified information; conduct or contract for a gap analysis for specified purposes; identify core competencies and performance metrics and make recommendations for standardizing assessments; and submit a certain report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (46) and (47) of section 393.063, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (47) and (48), respectively, subsection (11) is amended, and a new subsection (46) is added to that section, to read:

393.063 Definitions.—For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

(11) “Developmental disability” means a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, ~~or Prader-Willi syndrome,~~ or Tatton-Brown-Rahman syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.

(46) “Tatton-Brown-Rahman syndrome” means a disorder caused by a mutation in the DNMT3A gene typified by mild to severe intellectual disability, macrocephaly, stature and weight that is greater than or equal to two or more standard deviations above the mean for the person’s age and sex, and any of the following features presenting in infancy, childhood, or adolescence:

- (a) Mild facial dysmorphism.
- (b) Joint hypermobility.
- (c) Hypotonia.
- (d) Kyphoscoliosis.

- (e) Seizures.
- (f) Cryptorchidism.
- (g) Deficits in behavior.
- (h) Hematologic malignancies.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 393.0655, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

393.0655 Screening of direct service providers.—

(1) **MINIMUM STANDARDS.**—The agency shall require level 2 employment screening pursuant to chapter 435 for direct service providers who are unrelated to their clients, including support coordinators, and all employees managers and supervisors of residential facilities or adult day training programs licensed under this chapter and any other persons, including volunteers, who provide care or services, who have access to a client's living areas, or who have access to a client's funds or personal property. Background screening must include employment history checks as provided in s. 435.03(1) and local criminal records checks through local law enforcement agencies.

(a) A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than 10 hours per month does not have to be screened if a person who meets the screening requirement of this section is always present and has the volunteer within his or her line of sight.

(b) Licensed physicians, nurses, or other professionals licensed and regulated by the Department of Health are not subject to background screening pursuant to this section if they are providing a service that is within their scope of licensed practice.

(c) A person selected by the family or the individual with developmental disabilities and paid by the family or the individual to provide supports or services is not required to have a background screening under this section.

(d) Persons 12 years of age or older, including family members, residing with a direct services provider who provides services to clients in his or her own place of residence are subject to background screening; however, such persons who are 12 to 18 years of age shall be screened for delinquency records only.

Section 3. (1)(a) For purposes of enhancing the quality, capacity, and consistency of waiver support coordination services, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall contract with a state university to develop and administer surveys regarding waiver support coordination services. The university shall administer surveys to owners and operators of all qualified organizations in this state; support coordinators currently employed by a

qualified organization; and iBudget clients and their parents, caregivers, or legal guardians.

1. The surveys must, at a minimum, solicit data and input regarding:

a. The quality, consistency, and accessibility of services provided by support coordinators.

b. Attributes and behaviors that define high-quality support coordination.

c. Best practices and areas for improvement.

d. Quantitative and qualitative metrics suitable for assessing support coordinator performance.

e. Any other factors deemed pertinent by the university or the agency to improve service delivery.

2. Surveys of qualified organizations must also specifically address:

a. Professional and educational prerequisites established by the organization for employment as a support coordinator.

b. Methods used to assess core competencies.

c. The efficacy of the mentoring program required under s. 393.0663(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

d. Operational and systemic challenges with recruitment and retention of qualified support coordinators.

3. Surveys of individual waiver support coordinators must also specifically address:

a. Individual caseload ratios, capacity, and geographic service areas.

b. The efficacy of the mentoring program required under s. 393.0663(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

c. Operational and systemic challenges to delivery of effective support coordination.

4. Surveys of iBudget clients and their parents, caregivers, or legal guardians must also specifically address satisfaction with support coordination services.

(b) By October 1, 2026, the state university must submit a final report to the agency, including a compilation and analysis of the survey results.

(2) The agency shall solicit input on enhancing support coordinator quality, capacity and consistency from the whole community of waiver

program stakeholders, and shall conduct at least one publicly noticed hearing for this purpose in each service region.

(3) The agency shall conduct or contract for a gap analysis to assess the geographic distribution and caseload capacity of waiver support coordinators across this state.

(4) Using the information gathered under this section, the agency shall identify specific core competencies for waiver support coordinators, identify specific performance metrics to assess those core competencies, and make recommendations on how to standardize their assessment. By February 15, 2027, the agency shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on its findings and recommendations, and include the full report submitted by the state university under subsection (1).

(5) This section shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2026.