

The Arc Bills for the 190th session (2017-2018)

1. Abuse Registry “Nicky’s Law” S 2213 H 4026 (old numbers S64 / H80)

Senator Mike Moore

Representative Linda Dean Campbell

An Act to establish a registry of caretakers found to have substantiated abuse against persons with intellectual disability or developmental disability.

2. Supporting Individuals with I/DD (OHC) S 1222 / H 1954

Senator Barbara L’Italien

Representative Carolyn Dykema

An Act supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to establish training focused on best practices for the treatment and care of individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities for medical professionals through a voluntary training and accreditation program

3. Housing (Accessory Apartments) S 2132 (old number S 729)

Senator Barbara L’Italien

An Act relative to accessory dwelling units. For legislation relative to the development and preservation of affordable housing for persons with disabilities and the elderly; is designed to encourage creation of long-term housing stock for people with disabilities and seniors in the form of 2 bedroom accessory apartments.

4. Dental Therapist Expansion S 1169 / H 2474

Senator Harriette Chandler

Representatives William Pignatelli/Kate Hogan

An Act Authorizing Dental Therapists to Expand Access to Oral Health. This bill would establish the position of advanced dental hygiene practitioner and require training about best practices for people with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The DHP will perform services as tooth extractions and fillings in settings as community centers, nursing homes and schools. The DHP would provide services for individuals who are not able to visit an office.

5. Hospital Training – Autism S 1221 / H 3236

Senator Barbara L’Italien

Representative Sean Garballey

An Act creating Autism teams in hospitals to expand current medical providers' knowledge about autism in order to improve the treatment individuals with autism receive in medical settings. This bill is aimed at expanding medical provider's knowledge about autism and tasks DPH with designing a program to provide specialized training on autism for medical providers and subsequently establishing a pilot program to develop an on call "autism team".

6. Loan Repayment Program for Human Service Workers S 42 / H 116

*Senator Jennifer Flanagan
Representative Jeffrey Roy*

An Act relative to creating a loan repayment program for human services workers. This bill encourages direct care workers to enter and continue working in community-based human services programs. The bill would help human service organizations recruit and retain a stronger, more qualified workforce.

7. Criminal Justice Training Regarding Autism S 1313 / H 2276

*S1313 Senator Anne Gobi
H 2276 Senator Jennifer Flanagan & Representative Kimberly Ferguson*

An Act related to criminal justice training regarding autistic persons. This will require training of law enforcement officers and correction officers in the commonwealth in appropriate interactions with persons on the autism spectrum, and also shall develop guidelines for law enforcement response to individuals on the autism spectrum who are victims or witnesses to crime, or suspected or convicted of crime.

8. Prompting and Cueing S 60 / H 1967

*Senator Joan Lovely
Representative James O'Day*

An Act Relative to Cueing and Supervision in the PCA program. This bill amends chapter 7 of the general law to allow the Personal Care Attendant Program (PCA) program to include cueing and prompting as a covered services for those eligible members who need prompting or cueing in order to perform 2 or more activities of daily living (ADL).

9. Higher Education Opportunities for Students with I/DD S 698/ H 634

*Senator Barbara L'Italien
Representatives Patricia Haddad/Sean Garballey*

An Act related creating higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, autism and other developmental disabilities. This bill allows persons with autism or I/DD to access the Commonwealth's state colleges and universities to gain skills necessary to work and live as independently as possible as adults.

10. Supporting Transition to Adult Services (Turning 22) S 288 / H 1953

Senator Barbara L'Italien

Representative Mark Cusack

An Act supporting the transition to adult services for persons with disabilities.

Expands transition (Turning 22) services and supports to students with disabilities “without adult service agency ties” (688 process). It also updates and expands the types of “habilitative services” that must be provided under the 688 process. It assigns to EOHHS the obligation to monitor and collect data on the extent to which needed 688 services are not being provided, because of shortfalls in appropriations.

11. Prevention of discrimination against adults with disabilities in family or juvenile court proceedings S 896 / H845

Senator Barbara L'Italien

Representative Paul Heroux

A Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings”. This bill prevents disability used as a sole reason to rule against a person/family on matters in juvenile and probate courts.

12. Act to promote health equity S 600

Senator Michael Barrett

The Act will establish an Office of Health Equity (OHE) within EOHS to focus on reducing health disparities among minorities, people with disabilities and other populations that experience health disparities.

