

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2017 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

## **Senate Bill 564**

BY SENATORS TAKUBO AND STOLLINGS

[Passed April 5, 2017; in effect 90 days from passage]



1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §18-10M-2, §18-10M-4, §18-10M-6, §18-10M-7 and §18-10M-8  
2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to the Statewide Independent  
3 Living Council; making changes required by amendments to the federal Rehabilitation Act  
4 of 1973; updating definitions; modifying the functions and duties of the council;  
5 redesignating council relationships with centers for independent living and a designated  
6 state entity; providing for compensation and expense reimbursement for members  
7 engaged in official duties; requiring signatures for acceptance and approval of state plan;  
8 and making conforming amendments.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That §18-10M-2, §18-10M-4, §18-10M-6, §18-10M-7 and §18-10M-8 of the Code of West  
2 Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 10M. WEST VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT LIVING ACT.**

**§18-10M-2. Legislative findings and declarations.**

1 The Legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

2 (1) The state recognizes the value of independent living services in maximizing the ability  
3 of people with disabilities to live more independently in their own homes and communities.

4 (2) Persons with disabilities have the best capacity to design, develop, manage and  
5 implement the programs and services which are intended to assist them.

6 (3) The federal Rehabilitation Act, as amended, requires this state to develop a state plan  
7 for independent living to describe and direct independent living services in West Virginia.

8 (4) The federal Rehabilitation Act, as amended, further calls for the establishment and  
9 operation of a Statewide Independent Living Council to monitor, review and evaluate the  
10 implementation of the state's plan for independent living services.

11 (5) Approximately twenty-three and one-half percent of West Virginia's residents have one  
12 or more disabilities, many of whom could benefit directly or indirectly from the provision of

13 independent living services by the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the state's centers for  
14 independent living.

15 (6) A need exists for a coordinated network of consumer-controlled centers for  
16 independent living that effectively reaches persons with disabilities in all fifty-five counties of the  
17 state.

**§18-10M-4. Definitions.**

1 Terms used in this article have the same meanings as those provided in the federal  
2 Rehabilitation Act, as amended, as follows:

3 (a) "Consumer control" means circumstances in which individuals with disabilities having  
4 decision-making authority.

5 (b) "Council" means the Statewide Independent Living Council.

6 (c) "Designated state entity" means the entity designated in the state plan for independent  
7 living to receive and administer federal funding as directed by the plan.

8 (d) "Federal Rehabilitation Act" or "federal act" means the act codified at 29 U. S. C. §701,  
9 *et. seq.*

10 (e) "Independent living services" means advocacy; independent living skills; training;  
11 information and referral; peer counseling; peer support; transition, including services that facilitate  
12 the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions  
13 to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services; provide  
14 assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that  
15 the individuals may remain in the community; facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals  
16 with significant disabilities, who were eligible for individualized education programs pursuant to  
17 section 614(d) of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U. S. C. 1414(d)), and  
18 who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to post-secondary life;  
19 and any other service directed by the state plan which may include, but is not limited to, the  
20 following:

- 21 (1) Assistive devices and equipment;
- 22 (2) Communication services;
- 23 (3) Counseling and related services;
- 24 (4) Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into
- 25 society of individuals with disabilities;
- 26 (5) Environmental modifications;
- 27 (6) Family services;
- 28 (7) Housing advocacy;
- 29 (8) Mobility training;
- 30 (9) Personal assistance services;
- 31 (10) Prostheses and other appliances and devices; and
- 32 (11) Rehabilitation technology.

33 (f) "Individual with a significant disability" means an individual with a severe physical or  
34 mental impairment whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose  
35 ability to obtain, maintain or advance in employment is substantially limited and for whom the  
36 delivery of independent living services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or  
37 move toward functioning independently in the family or community or to continue in employment,  
38 respectively.

39 (g) "State plan" means the state plan for independent living required by the federal  
40 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

**§18-10M-6. Statewide Independent Living Council.**

1 (a) The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is continued as a not-for-profit  
2 corporation which has been organized to meet the requirements of the federal Rehabilitation Act,  
3 as amended. The council may not be established as an entity within any agency or political  
4 subdivision of the state. The council shall be governed by a board of directors, consisting of the  
5 voting members of the council, as provided in this section. The composition of this board of

6 directors, as well as the composition of the full council's membership, shall include a majority of  
7 members who are persons with disabilities, as defined in the federal Rehabilitation Act, as  
8 amended, who are not employed by any agency of the state or center for independent living. The  
9 council's membership shall reflect balanced geographical representation, diverse backgrounds  
10 and a broad range of disabilities, including, but not limited to, physical, mental, cognitive, sensory  
11 and multiple.

12 (b) The council shall function as a partner with the centers for independent living, in  
13 compliance with the federal Rehabilitation Act, as amended, in the planning and provision of  
14 independent living services in the state. In conjunction with the centers for independent living, the  
15 council shall develop, approve and submit to the proper federal authorities the state plan for  
16 independent living, as required by the federal act. The council shall monitor, review and evaluate  
17 the effectiveness of the implementation of the state plan.

18 (c) *Voting members.* — The council shall consist of twenty-four voting members, including  
19 one director of an independent living center chosen by the directors of the independent living  
20 centers in the state. The Governor shall select appointments from among the nominations  
21 submitted by the council after having conducted a statewide solicitation from organizations  
22 representing a wide range of individuals with disabilities and other interested groups, as  
23 coordinated by the council, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. These members  
24 may include individuals with disabilities, other representatives from centers for independent living,  
25 parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities, advocates of individuals with disabilities,  
26 representatives from the business and educational sectors, representatives of organizations that  
27 provide services for individuals with disabilities and other interested individuals, as appropriate to  
28 the purpose of the council.

29 (d) *Nonvoting members.* — The membership of the council shall also include the following,  
30 nonvoting, ex officio members or their designees who shall be appointed by the Governor:

31 (1) A representative of the designated state entity;

32 (2) A representative of the Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within  
33 the Department of Health and Human Resources;

34 (3) A representative of the West Virginia Housing Development Fund;

35 (4) A representative of the West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities;

36 (5) A representative of the Bureau of Senior Services; and

37 (6) A representative of the Office of Special Education Programs and Assurance in the  
38 Department of Education.

39 (e) The nonvoting membership may also include additional representatives of groups  
40 represented on the board of directors as identified in the bylaws of the council.

41 (f) *Appointment.* — All council members are appointed by the Governor. The Governor  
42 shall appoint from among the nominations submitted by organizations representing a wide range  
43 of individuals with disabilities and other interested groups, as coordinated by the council.

44 (g) *Terms of appointment.* — All council members are appointed to serve for a term of  
45 three years, except that a member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of  
46 the term for which a predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of the  
47 unexpired term. No member of the council may serve more than two consecutive full terms.

48 (h) *Vacancies.* — Any vacancy occurring in the appointed membership of the council shall  
49 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A vacancy does not affect the power of  
50 the remaining members to execute the duties of the council.

51 (i) *Delegation.* — The Governor may delegate the authority to fill a vacancy to the  
52 remaining voting members of the council after initial appointments have been made.

53 (j) *Duties.* — The council shall:

54 (1) In conjunction with the centers for independent living, develop and sign the state plan  
55 for independent living;

56 (2) Monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the state plan;

57 (3) Coordinate activities with other bodies that address the needs of specific disability  
58 populations and issues under other federal and state law;

59 (4) Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the council are open to the public and  
60 sufficient advance notice is provided;

61 (5) Submit to the federal funding agency such periodic reports as are required and keep  
62 such records and afford access to such records, as may be necessary to verify such reports; and

63 (6) Ensure that the state plan for independent living sets forth the steps that will be taken  
64 to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among:

65 (A) The Independent Living Rehabilitation Service Program, the Statewide Independent  
66 Living Council and centers for independent living; and

67 (B) The designated state unit, other state agencies represented on the council, other  
68 councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and  
69 private entities determined to be appropriate by the council.

70 (k) *Authorities.* — Unless prohibited by state law the council may, consistent with the state  
71 plan described in section seven of this article:

72 (1) Work with centers for independent living to coordinate services with public and private  
73 entities to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities;

74 (2) Conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this  
75 article to support the provision of independent living services by centers for independent living;  
76 and

77 (3) Perform other functions, consistent with the purpose of this article and comparable to  
78 other functions described in this subsection, as the council determines to be appropriate.

79 (l) *Staffing and resources.* — The council may employ staff as necessary to perform the  
80 functions of the council, including an executive director and other staff as may be determined  
81 necessary by the council. The council shall supervise and evaluate the executive director. The  
82 council shall prepare, in conjunction with the designated state entity, a plan for the use of available



83 resources as may be necessary to carry out the functions and duties of the council pursuant to  
84 this article, utilizing eligible federal funds including innovation and expansion funds as directed by  
85 the federal Rehabilitation Act, as amended, funds made available under this article and funds  
86 from other public and private sources. This resource plan shall, to the maximum extent possible,  
87 rely on the use of existing resources during the period of plan implementation.

88 (m) *Compensation and expenses.* — The council may use available resources to  
89 reimburse members of the council for reasonable and necessary expenses of attending council  
90 meetings and performing council duties, such as personal assistance services, and if the member  
91 is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment, to pay compensation to the  
92 member for attending official meetings or engaging in official duties not to exceed the amount  
93 paid to members of the Legislature for their interim duties as recommended by the Citizens  
94 Legislative Compensation Commission and authorized by law.

**§18-10M-7. State plan for independent living.**

1 (a) The state plan shall direct the use of federal funds provided to the state under the  
2 federal act and appropriated by the Legislature to the designated state entity in a line item for this  
3 purpose, in addition to any state funds that may be appropriated to the designated state entity for  
4 the provision of independent living services. The state plan, and each subsequent plan or  
5 amendment thereto, shall address the priorities set forth in the federal act for establishing a  
6 statewide program of independent living services, including a statewide network of centers for  
7 independent living. The council chairperson, as authorized by the voting members of the council,  
8 and a majority of the directors of the centers for independent living in the state will sign the state  
9 plan indicating agreement with the content. The director of the designated state entity will sign  
10 the state plan indicating agreement to serve as the designated state entity, to receive the funding,  
11 distribute the funding in accordance to the state plan and to fulfill all responsibilities of the  
12 designated state entity as provided in the federal Rehabilitation Act, as amended. The state plan

13 may be amended at any time at the agreement of the council and the centers for independent  
14 living.

15 (b) The state plan, and each subsequent plan and any amendments thereto shall be  
16 presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources  
17 Accountability, created pursuant to article twenty-nine-e, chapter sixteen of this code, for review  
18 and consultation.

**§18-10M-8. Funding and grants.**

1 (a) Funds appropriated to the designated state entity for independent living services shall  
2 be administered by the designated state entity and may be used to fund any service or activity  
3 included in the state plan for independent living, including funding centers for independent living.  
4 In order to qualify for funding, a center for independent living shall meet the definition and comply  
5 with the standards and indicators therefor, as established in the federal act.

6 (b) Subject to availability, the state plan may designate funds for purposes including, but  
7 not limited to, the following:

8 (1) To provide independent living services to eligible individuals with significant disabilities;

9 (2) To demonstrate ways to expand and improve independent living services;

10 (3) To support the operation of centers for independent living;

11 (4) To support activities to increase the capacities of centers for independent living to  
12 develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing independent living services;

13 (5) To conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and  
14 procedures and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions and  
15 recommendations to policymakers in order to enhance independent living services for individuals  
16 with disabilities;

17 (6) To train individuals with disabilities and individuals who provide services to them and  
18 other persons regarding the independent living philosophy; and

19           (7) To provide outreach to populations that are unserved or underserved by programs  
20 under this act, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

21           As provided in the state plan, funds appropriated for the purposes of this article shall be  
22 utilized directly by the designated state entity for the provision of independent living services or  
23 through grants or contracts, with the approval of the council, to agencies that meet the definition  
24 of and comply with the standards and indicators for centers for independent living set forth in the  
25 federal act.



The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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*Chairman, Senate Committee*

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*Chairman, House Committee*

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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*Clerk of the Senate*

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*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

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*President of the Senate*

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*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

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The within ..... this the.....  
Day of ....., 2017.

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*Governor*