

**102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2021 and 2022****SB2233**

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Laura M. Murphy

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

20 ILCS 1305/10-26

Amends the Department of Human Services Act. Makes changes to a provision concerning the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database. Adds individuals in State-operated developmental centers and individuals in community-integrated living arrangements to the list of persons the Department of Human Services must register in the PUNS database. Requires the Secretary of Human Services to seek input from advisory bodies to the Department, including advisory councils and committees working with the Department in the areas of intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and autism spectrum disorders, with regard to the establishment, maintenance, and administration of PUNS. Provides that the Department shall also ensure that individuals in PUNS are contacted regarding their PUNS status and available services at least 2 times each year via email or letter, based on the delivery preference of the individual. Provides that the available services and supports may include housing, home-based services, employment and training, respite care, and day programs. Requires the Department to seek any available federal funding to upgrade its technology in order to implement an effective and efficient system of operating and maintaining PUNS and making the web-based verification and information-update application developed by the Department available to individuals listed in PUNS. Requires the Department to collaborate with the State Board of Education to ensure that students with disabilities and their parents are informed of PUNS consistent with a specified provision of the School Code.

LRB102 11600 KTG 16934 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY**A BILL FOR**

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Human Services Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 10-26 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-26)

7 Sec. 10-26. The PUNS database.

8 (a) The Department of Human Services shall compile and  
9 maintain a database of Illinois residents with an intellectual  
10 disability or a developmental disability, including an autism  
11 spectrum disorder, and Illinois residents with an intellectual  
12 disability or a developmental disability who are also  
13 diagnosed with a physical disability or mental illness and are  
14 in need of developmental disability services funded by the  
15 Department. The database shall be referred to as the  
16 Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) and  
17 shall include, but not be limited to, children and youth,  
18 individuals transitioning from special education to  
19 post-secondary activities, individuals living at home or in  
20 the community, individuals in State-operated developmental  
21 centers, individuals in private nursing and residential  
22 facilities, ~~and~~ individuals in intermediate care facilities  
23 for persons with developmental disabilities, and individuals

1 in community-integrated living arrangements. Individuals who  
2 are receiving services under any home and community-based  
3 services waiver program authorized under Section 1915(c) of  
4 the Social Security Act may remain on the PUNS database until  
5 they are offered services through a PUNS selection or  
6 demonstrate the need for and are awarded alternative services.

7 (b) The PUNS database shall be used to foster a fair and  
8 orderly process for processing applications for developmental  
9 disabilities services funded by the Department, verifying  
10 information, keeping individuals and families who have applied  
11 for services informed of available services and anticipated  
12 wait times, determining unmet need, and informing the General  
13 Assembly and the Governor of unmet need statewide and within  
14 each representative district. The Secretary of Human Services  
15 shall seek input from advisory bodies to the Department,  
16 including advisory councils and committees working with the  
17 Department in the areas of intellectual disabilities,  
18 developmental disabilities, and autism spectrum disorders,  
19 with regard to the establishment, maintenance, and  
20 administration of PUNS.

21 (c) Independent service coordination agencies shall be the  
22 points of entry for individuals and families applying for  
23 developmental disability services and supports funded by the  
24 Department. The information collected and maintained for PUNS  
25 shall include, but is not limited to, the following: (i) the  
26 types of services of which the individual is potentially in

1 need; (ii) demographic and identifying information about the  
2 individual; (iii) factors indicating need, including  
3 diagnoses, assessment information, ages of primary caregivers,  
4 and current living situation; (iv) if applicable, the date  
5 information about the individual is submitted for inclusion in  
6 PUNNS<sup>7</sup> and the types of services sought by the individual; and  
7 (v) the representative district in which the individual  
8 resides. In collecting and maintaining information under this  
9 Section, the Department shall give consideration to  
10 cost-effective appropriate services for individuals.

11 (d) The Department shall respond to inquiries about  
12 anticipated PUNNS selection dates and make available a  
13 Department email ~~e-mail~~ address for such inquiries. Subject to  
14 appropriation, the Department shall offer a web-based  
15 verification and information-update application. The  
16 Department shall also ensure that individuals in PUNNS are  
17 contacted regarding their PUNNS status and available services  
18 at least 2 times each year via email or letter, based on the  
19 delivery preference of the individual. Such services and  
20 supports may include housing, home-based services, employment  
21 and training, respite care, and day programs. The Department  
22 shall ~~make all reasonable efforts to contact individuals on~~  
23 ~~the PUNNS database at least 2 times each year and provide~~  
24 information about the PUNNS process, ~~information regarding~~  
25 ~~services that may be available to them prior to the time they~~  
26 ~~are selected from PUNNS,~~ and advice on preparing for and

1 seeking developmental disability services. At least one of the  
2 contacts must be from an independent service coordination  
3 agency. The Department may contact individuals on the PUNS  
4 database through a newsletter prepared by the Division of  
5 Developmental Disabilities. The Department shall provide  
6 information about PUNS to the general public on its website.

7 (d-1) The Department shall seek any available federal  
8 funding to upgrade its technology in order to implement an  
9 effective and efficient system of operating and maintaining  
10 PUNS and making the web-based verification and  
11 information-update application developed in accordance with  
12 subsection (d) available to individuals listed in PUNS.

13 (d-2) The Department shall collaborate with the State  
14 Board of Education to ensure that students with disabilities  
15 and their parents are informed of PUNS consistent with Section  
16 2-3.163 of the School Code.

17 (e) This amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly does  
18 not create any new entitlement to a service, program, or  
19 benefit but shall not affect any entitlement to a service,  
20 program, or benefit created by any other law. Except for a  
21 service, program, or benefit that is an entitlement, a  
22 service, program, or benefit provided as a result of the  
23 collection and maintenance of PUNS shall be subject to  
24 appropriations made by the General Assembly.

25 (f) The Department, consistent with applicable federal and  
26 State law, shall make general information about PUNS available

1 to the public such as: (i) the number of individuals  
2 potentially in need of each type of service, program, or  
3 benefit; and (ii) the general characteristics of those  
4 individuals. The Department shall protect the confidentiality  
5 of each individual in PUNS when releasing PUNS ~~database~~  
6 information by not disclosing any personally identifying  
7 information.

8 (g) The Department shall allow an individual who is:

9 (1) a legal resident;

10 (2) a dependent of a military service member; and

11 (3) absent from the State due to the member's military  
12 service;

13 to be added to PUNS to indicate the need for services upon  
14 return to the State. If the individual is selected from PUNS to  
15 receive services, the individual shall have 6 months from the  
16 date of the selection notification to apply for services and  
17 another 6 months to commence using the services. If an  
18 individual is receiving services funded by the Department and  
19 the services are disrupted due to the military service  
20 member's need for the individual to leave the State because of  
21 the member's military service, the services shall be resumed  
22 upon the individual's return to the State if the individual is  
23 otherwise eligible. No payment made in accordance with this  
24 Section or Section 12-4.47 of the Illinois Public Aid Code  
25 shall be made for home and community based services provided  
26 outside the State of Illinois. The individual is required to

1 provide the following to the Department:

2 (i) a copy of the military service member's DD-214 or  
3 other equivalent discharge paperwork; and

4 (ii) proof of the military service member's legal  
5 residence in the State, as prescribed by the Department.

6 (Source: P.A. 101-284, eff. 8-9-19.)