

1 AN ACT concerning children.

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

4 Section 1. The Hospital Licensing Act is amended by adding
5 Section 11.7a as follows:

6 (210 ILCS 85/11.7a new)

7 Sec. 11.7a. Early intervention services.

8 (a) Through June 30, 2026, a hospital shall provide
9 written information, which may be provided electronically, on
10 the Early Intervention program administered under the Early
11 Intervention Services System Act to any parent or legal
12 guardian whose child is admitted to the neonatal intensive
13 care department. With a parent or legal guardian, a hospital
14 staff member familiar with the Early Intervention program
15 shall initiate prior to discharge from the hospital written
16 referrals to the Early Intervention program for all children
17 admitted to the neonatal intensive care department who qualify
18 for early intervention services under paragraph (2) or (3) of
19 subsection (a) of Section 3 of the Early Intervention Services
20 System Act.

21 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, a hospital shall provide
22 written information, which may be provided electronically, on
23 the Early Intervention program administered under the

1 Department of Early Childhood Act to any parent or legal
2 guardian whose child is admitted to the neonatal intensive
3 care department. With a parent or legal guardian, a hospital
4 staff member familiar with the Early Intervention program
5 shall initiate prior to discharge from the hospital written
6 referrals to the Early Intervention program for all children
7 admitted to the neonatal intensive care department who qualify
8 for early intervention services under paragraph (2) or (3) of
9 subsection (a) of Section 10-15 of the Department of Early
10 Childhood Act.

11 Section 5. The Department of Early Childhood Act is
12 amended by changing Section 10-45 as follows:

13 (325 ILCS 3/10-45)

14 Sec. 10-45. Essential components of the statewide service
15 system. As required by federal laws and regulations, a
16 statewide system of coordinated, comprehensive, interagency
17 and interdisciplinary programs shall be established and
18 maintained. The framework of the statewide system shall be
19 based on the components set forth in this Section. This
20 framework shall be used for planning, implementation,
21 coordination and evaluation of the statewide system of locally
22 based early intervention services.

23 The statewide system shall include, at a minimum:

24 (a) a definition of the term "developmentally

1 delayed", in accordance with the definition in Section
2 10-15, that will be used in Illinois in carrying out
3 programs under this Act;

4 (b) timetables for ensuring that appropriate early
5 intervention services, based on scientifically based
6 research, to the extent practicable, will be available to
7 all eligible infants and toddlers in this State after the
8 effective date of this Act;

9 (c) a timely, comprehensive, multidisciplinary
10 evaluation of each potentially eligible infant and toddler
11 in this State, unless the child meets the definition of
12 eligibility based upon his or her medical and other
13 records; for a child determined eligible, a
14 multidisciplinary assessment of the unique strengths and
15 needs of that infant or toddler and the identification of
16 services appropriate to meet those needs and a
17 family-directed assessment of the resources, priorities,
18 and concerns of the family and the identification of
19 supports and services necessary to enhance the family's
20 capacity to meet the developmental needs of that infant or
21 toddler;

22 (d) for each eligible infant and toddler, an
23 Individualized Family Service Plan, including service
24 coordination (case management) services;

25 (e) a comprehensive child find system, consistent with
26 Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

1 (20 United States Code 1411 through 1420 and as set forth
2 in 34 CFR 300.115), which includes timelines and provides
3 for participation by primary referral sources;

4 (f) a public awareness program focusing on early
5 identification of eligible infants and toddlers, with a
6 special focus on the early identification of infants who
7 automatically qualify for early intervention services,
8 including, but not limited to, those who qualify on
9 account of having a birth weight less than 1,000 grams;

10 (g) a central directory which includes public and
11 private early intervention services, resources, and
12 experts available in this State, professional and other
13 groups (including parent support groups and training and
14 information centers) that provide assistance to infants
15 and toddlers with disabilities who are eligible for early
16 intervention programs assisted under Part C of the
17 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and their
18 families, and research and demonstration projects being
19 conducted in this State relating to infants and toddlers
20 with disabilities;

21 (h) a comprehensive system of personnel development;

22 (i) a policy pertaining to the contracting or making
23 of other arrangements with public and private service
24 providers to provide early intervention services in this
25 State, consistent with the provisions of this Act,
26 including the contents of the application used and the

1 conditions of the contract or other arrangements;

2 (j) a procedure for securing timely reimbursement of
3 funds;

4 (k) procedural safeguards with respect to programs
5 under this Act;

6 (l) policies and procedures relating to the
7 establishment and maintenance of standards to ensure that
8 personnel necessary to carry out this Act are
9 appropriately and adequately prepared and trained;

10 (m) a system of evaluation of, and compliance with,
11 program standards;

12 (n) a system for compiling data on the numbers of
13 eligible infants and toddlers and their families in this
14 State in need of appropriate early intervention services;
15 the numbers served; the types of services provided; and
16 other information required by the State or federal
17 government; and

18 (o) a single line of responsibility in a lead agency
19 designated by the Governor to carry out its
20 responsibilities as required by this Act.

21 In addition to these required components, linkages may be
22 established within a local community area among the prenatal
23 initiatives affording services to high risk pregnant women.
24 Additional linkages among at risk programs and local literacy
25 programs may also be established.

26 On and after July 1, 2026, the Department of Early

1 Childhood shall continue implementation of the 5-fiscal-year
2 implementation plan that was created by the Department of
3 Human Services with the concurrence of the Illinois
4 Interagency Council on Early Intervention. The plan shall list
5 specific activities to be accomplished each year, with cost
6 estimates for each activity. The lead agency shall, with the
7 concurrence of the Interagency Council, submit to the
8 Governor's Office a report on accomplishments of the previous
9 year and a revised list of activities for the remainder of the
10 5-fiscal-year plan, with cost estimates for each. The Governor
11 shall certify that specific activities in the plan for the
12 previous year have been substantially completed before
13 authorizing relevant State or local agencies to implement
14 activities listed in the revised plan that depend
15 substantially upon completion of one or more of the earlier
16 activities.

17 (Source: P.A. 103-594, eff. 6-25-24.)