

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1517
Version:	INT
Request Number:	5706
Author:	Rep. Peterson
Date:	2/23/2015
Impact:	\$1,172,909 total; \$297,777 state

Research Analysis

HB 1517, as introduced, requires staff of the Developmental Disabilities Services Division of DHS involved in providing, or supervising the provision of, direct support services to complete the first available division-approved training courses in person.

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

Fiscal Analysis

DHS contracted with OU to provide Effective Teaching/Learning courses Levels I and II in 2008 prior to implementing the online training now provided. The annualized cost of the contract in 2008 was \$839,571. Training contracts with OU have annual increases of 2% to 5%. Assuming a 2% increase for eight years year results in a 16% increase for a total annualized contract of \$973,902. The existing online training contract will not be reduced because other trainings are provided and their cost is based on the number of clients, not the number of trainings provided.

The approved foundation training course is available online through the College of Direct Support and in-person through DHS. Three (3) additional Training Specialist staff will be needed if the online course is eliminated. The total annual cost of the 3.0 FTE is \$162,231. The estimated increase cost for training staff travel, lodging, and per diem is \$36,776.

Provider agencies will incur additional unknown costs if they are required to send staff to in-person foundation training courses, effective teaching courses and behavior support courses. These costs would include additional mileage and pay for another staff to work in the homes and at vocational sites while the staff attends training.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson

Other Considerations

Currently, provider agency staff receive these course trainings online through the College of Direct Support (CDS). CDS courses are developed by the University of Minnesota's Research and Training Center on Community Living. Each course is reviewed by a group of content experts from the National Board of Editors, who serve as editors and advisors for all courses. DDS can annotate courses to include information specific to Oklahoma's DDS waiver. The CDS training is cost effective because it is based on a per person served basis, not a per learner basis. For a set price all staff, family members, and other people supporting the individual can benefit from the online training. CDS training is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to fit agency/employee schedules.

If provider agency staff is required to complete in-person, the first available DDS approved foundation training course and effective teaching course, DDS would have to provide the in-person training and the other required courses which are available through CDS. The CDS includes 9 additional required training courses for residential and vocational direct support staff. The CDS also includes several other elective courses on specific useful topics.

The flexibility of online trainings addresses previous concerns expressed by provider agencies regarding the accessibility of training courses for direct support staff. Prior to using CDS, live training classes resulted in delays for staff to complete required courses due to the following: availability of open classes, capacity, frequency, and distance issues.

Prepared By: Ray Hester

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