

HOUSE BILL NO. 638

INTRODUCED BY J. KNOKEY

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
5 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES PROVIDER RATE
6 INCREASE FOR DIRECT CARE WORKER WAGES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation for direct care worker wages.** (1) The following amounts
11 are appropriated to the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017,
12 for a rate increase for developmental disability services providers to be phased in and used as provided in this
13 section:

14	Fiscal Year 2018	\$6,605,652	federal special revenue
15		\$3,433,333	general fund
16	Fiscal Year 2019	\$13,211,304	federal special revenue
17		\$6,866,666	general fund

18 (2) Providers must use the appropriation to increase wages and related benefits or provide lump-sum
19 payments only for workers who:

- 20 (a) provide direct care;
21 (b) are employed in community services established pursuant to 53-20-205; and
22 (c) are not state employees.

23 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the department shall phase in the appropriation on July 1 and
24 January 1 of each year of the biennium in a manner that provides the equivalent of an increase in wages and
25 related benefits ~~or a lump-sum payment~~ of at least \$1.25 an hour per employee.

26 (4) (a) If the appropriation is insufficient to provide the equivalent of a biannual increase of \$1.25 an hour
27 per employee, the department shall provide the maximum provider rate increase possible from the appropriation.

28 (b) If the appropriation allows for the equivalent of a biannual increase of more than \$1.25 an hour per
29 employee, the department shall use the full amount of the appropriation to provide the greater increase.

30 (5) The legislature intends that the appropriation in this section be considered a part of the ongoing base

1 for the next legislative session.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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