

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly, subject to funding in the State budget, that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources shall expand the capacity of the Medicaid Home- and Community-Services Based Waiver for Adults with Physical Disabilities to include at least ~~250~~ 300 individuals by the end of fiscal year 2002. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources shall develop a plan for further expanding the capacity of the waiver according to the following schedule:

(1) to include a total capacity of at least 575 individuals by the end of fiscal year 2003;

(2) to include a total capacity of at least 1,425 individuals by the end of fiscal year 2004;

(3) to include a total capacity of at least 2,625 individuals by the end of fiscal year 2005; and

(4) to include a total capacity of at least 4,625 individuals by the end of fiscal year 2006.

(b) (1) On or before January 1, 2002, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources shall:

(i) determine the number of individuals residing in nursing homes who would be eligible for services under the waiver;

(ii) determine the number of individuals on medical assistance and residing in the community who would be eligible for services under the waiver;

(iii) develop the means to assess the number of individuals residing in the community who would be eligible for services under the waiver;

(iv) assess the capacity of the community to provide services to individuals eligible under the waiver; and

(v) develop a specific timeline for the implementation of further expansions in waiver capacity as appropriate to ensure that eligible individuals have access to services under the waiver.

(2) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources shall report to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2002, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the plan developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

SECTION 2 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved May 15, 2001.