

Removing Barriers to People with Disabilities

Living in their Own Homes

HF 716 (Finke) / SF 654 (Fateh)

People with disabilities in Minnesota have the right to live in their own homes and receive services of their choice. Although this is the stated policy of our state, barriers remain for people to make the choice to live in their own homes. This is made even more difficult by the current workforce shortage. This bill would address some of those barriers so that choosing to live in your own home becomes a true choice and would address some of the workforce shortage barriers to living in your own home.

Specifically, HF 716 / SF 654 would:

- **Expand access to shared services**
 - This way people with disabilities who need similar services can choose to share services and service providers if it works well for everyone involved. This is already permitted under Consumer-Directed Community Supports (CDCS), expanding it for all home and community-based waivers would help alleviate the workforce shortage for people who choose to live in their own homes.
- **More flexibility for Individualized Home Supports (IHS)**
 - **Allow for IHS services to bill for supporting the individual outside of direct time.** The first option is always supporting the individual accessing services directly to complete goals with the support of their IHS worker. However, there are some situations where follow-up from the worker may be necessary without the individual present. This bill proposes allowing the provider to bill for things they do on behalf of an individual without their direct contact, but with their consent, to ensure continuity of other necessary services.
 - **Permit people who receive services in their own homes to use IHS services when they temporarily travel out of state.** Traveling with your staff person when you go out of state on vacation or for other reasons is currently allowed under the CDCS program and for other home care services, but not for IHS. Individuals deserve the option to travel with the support staff they choose.

