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*Bill Analysis*  
*Legislative Service Commission*

**H.B. 621**  
127th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. J. Stewart, Strahorn**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Changes the name of county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities to county boards of developmental disabilities.
- Renames related county funds.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Background**

Each county has a board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities.<sup>1</sup> County boards consist of seven members: five members appointed by the board of county commissioners and the other two appointed by the county's senior probate judge.<sup>2</sup>

County boards are required to plan and set priorities based on available resources for the provision of facilities, programs, and other services to meet the needs of county residents who have mental retardation or other developmental disabilities, former county residents who reside in a state institution or are placed under a purchase of service agreement, and children subject to a determination made under a dispute resolution process initiated under a county family and children first council. County boards must assess the facility and service needs of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities who are residents of the county or former residents residing in a state institution or placed

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<sup>1</sup> Counties were permitted to create multicounty boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities before January 1, 2007, but no multicounty boards were created. (R.C. 5126.021.)

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5126.028.

under a purchase of service agreement.<sup>3</sup> County boards have numerous other duties.

**County boards renamed**

(R.C. 5126.011)

The bill changes the name of county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities to county boards of developmental disabilities. Whenever a county board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities is referred to or designated in any statute, rule, contract, grant, or other document, the reference or designation is deemed by the bill to refer to a county board of developmental disabilities.

**Renaming of related county funds**

In addition to changing the name of county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, the bill renames three related county funds as follows:

**Community MR/DD residential services funds**

(R.C. 5126.47)

A county board is permitted to establish, by agreement with one or more other county boards, a residential services consortium to jointly provide residential services and supported living. Such an agreement must designate one board to assume the fiscal responsibilities for the consortium. The county auditor of the designated county is required to establish a community mental retardation and developmental disabilities residential services fund for the consortium. Each member of the county board must deposit in the fund any state or federal money received for community residential services the county board has agreed to contribute to the consortium.

Under the bill, such a fund is called a community developmental disabilities residential services fund.

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 5126.04.

**Mental retardation and developmental disabilities general funds**

(R.C. 5705.091)

Each board of county commissioners is required to establish a mental retardation and developmental disabilities general fund. The fund is to consist of money raised by levies for mental retardation and developmental disabilities services, and that money is to be used for the purposes for which the levies are raised. The general fund must also consist of other money provided to a county board under state laws governing county boards and education of children with disabilities, other than money required to be deposited elsewhere.

Counties' mental retardation and developmental disabilities general funds are renamed developmental disabilities general funds.

**Mental retardation and developmental disabilities capital funds**

(R.C. 5705.091)

A county board may request that the board of county commissioners establish a mental retardation and developmental disabilities capital fund to be used for acquisition, construction, or improvement of capital facilities or acquisition of capital equipment used in providing services to persons with mental retardation or a developmental disability.

Counties' mental retardation and developmental disabilities capital funds are renamed developmental disabilities capital funds.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-17-08

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