

Testimony
Senate Bill 2261 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 24, 2011

Good morning, Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Julie Leer and I am an attorney with the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide information on the language used in drafting Senate Bill 2261.

Senator Lee asked me to explain why the language in this bill uses the term “intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded” when this committee heard Senate Bill 2142 on January 17th that will change the term “intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded” to “intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled.” Senate Bill 2261 was drafted using the existing term out of an abundance of caution. If for some reason Senate Bill 2142 changing “mentally retarded” to “intellectually disabled” does not pass and this bill does, this bill would not create an inconsistency within the Century Code. If both pass, there is an instruction in the final section of Senate Bill 2142 for the Legislative Council to substitute “intellectually disabled” for “mentally retarded” in any legislation passed during this session. That would ensure that the language in Senate Bill 2261 would be published using the term “intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled” if both bills pass.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.