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# Tax-free savings accounts for those with developmental disabilities approved in legislative session

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By Megan Hayes [CONNECT](#)

BIRMINGHAM, AL (WBRC) - Autism and developmental disability advocates are pleased with how the most recent legislative session ended.

The ABLE Act stands for "Achieving a Better Life Experience." The goal is to allow those in the developmental disability community to establish tax-free savings accounts for their loved ones.

The ABLE Act was made a top priority and passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"They had so many bills right at the end where they were really running out of time," said Bama Hager with the Autism Society of Alabama.

Hager said it came down to the wire. The legislative session was winding down and she needed the ABLE Act to make it to the floor for a vote. Luckily for her, it did and it passed.

"We were excited to be prioritized and the developmental disabilities community just feels so important this week," she said.

The ABLE Act allows parents of developmentally disabled children to set aside money for their young ones' future. Hager said it's similar to how college savings funds operate.

"The money in that tax-free account can be used for anything from education to experiences to life enrichment to living expenses, anything an adult, child with a disability might need," she said.

Hager has been waiting for this day since Congress passed the act last December. A tax-free account for disability-related expenses is something she said the community deserves to have.

"I think this is just kind of leveling that field," she said. "Saying a family that has a child that may or may not attend college, might want to have a 529A to be used in adulthood for whatever that adult child might need."

The ABLE Act passed the House of Representatives unanimously with a vote of 103 to zero. Hager said she expects Governor Bentley to sign the legislation soon.

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