
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6311

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger, O'Ban, Dhingra, and Wagoner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to persons with substance use disorders; adding
2 new sections to chapter 71.24 RCW; providing an effective date; and
3 providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Every patient who presents to an emergency room, evaluation
8 and treatment center, crisis triage facility, or crisis stabilization
9 unit with an indication of a substance use disorder, opioid overdose,
10 or chronic addiction, in the professional opinion of the medical
11 staff, must receive, with patient consent, prior to discharge:

12 (a) A screening for the need for substance use disorder services
13 using a validated screening tool;

14 (b) If the screening indicates a need for substance use disorder
15 services, a referral for a substance use disorder evaluation and
16 appropriate services;

17 (c) If the screening indicates a need for substance use disorder
18 services, and the patient consents, a referral to a certified
19 substance use disorder peer counselor, including transmittal of
20 patient information to the certified substance use disorder peer

1 counselor or agency providing certified substance use disorder peer
2 counselor services so that outreach can be made to the patient; and

3 (d) Access to information about available substance use disorder
4 treatment services.

5 (2) The facts of the screening or patient refusal and any other
6 action taken under this section must be noted in the patient's
7 medical record.

8 (3) The requirements of this section may be satisfied through the
9 use of telemedicine or other innovative service models.

10 (4) The requirements of this section may not be used to extend
11 the length of stay of a patient in an emergency room, evaluation and
12 treatment center, crisis triage facility, or crisis stabilization
13 unit.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The authority must develop and disseminate best practice
17 protocols for the use of facilities under section 1 of this act,
18 including guidance for identifying clients who present with an
19 indication of a substance use disorder, opioid overdose, or chronic
20 addiction, and for referring them for an evaluation and appropriate
21 services.

22 (2) The authority must develop a system to make accurate
23 information about clinically appropriate substance use disorder
24 services available to facilities under section 1 of this act and must
25 develop a strategy to update this information.

26 (3) The authority and the department may independently develop
27 rules to implement this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) The authority shall prepare a gap analysis and implementation
31 plan for delivery to the governor and appropriate committees of the
32 legislature by December 1, 2021, to implement sections 1 and 2 of
33 this act, including an analysis of workforce needs and proposals to
34 provide the needed level of services.

35 (2) This section expires January 1, 2024.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect
2 January 1, 2024.

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