

***Health Care Committee***

***HB 2011***

***Brief Description:*** Clarifying licensing for public psychiatric facilities.

***Sponsors:*** Representatives Campbell, Darneille, Bush, Lantz and Cody.

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *A public entity, including a like institution not otherwise established by statute, which establishes an institution for serving patients with mental illness or chemical dependency must be licensed by the Department of Health.*

***Hearing Date:*** 2/20/01

***Staff:*** John Welsh (786-7133).

***Background:***

*Current law requires that a person, association, or corporation establishing an institution, including a hospital or sanitarium, which cares for patients with mental illness or chemical dependency for compensation must be licensed by the Department of Health. The operation of an unlicensed institution is a misdemeanor.*

*There is no specific licensing requirement for a public entity establishing an institution for serving patients with mental illness or chemical dependency.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*A public entity, including a like facility not otherwise established by statute, establishing an institution serving mentally ill or chemically dependent persons, must be licensed by the Department of Health.*

***Appropriation:*** None.

***Fiscal Note:*** Not Requested.

***Effective Date:*** *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*