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SENATE BILL 5668

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senator Niemi.

Read first time February 14, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to adequate compensation for mental health service  
2 providers; adding a new section to chapter 71.24 RCW; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature intends that licensed service providers pay  
8 salaries adequate to recruit and retain qualified personnel.

9 (1) Nothing in this chapter, including state or regional support  
10 network performance expectations, should be construed to unduly limit  
11 the ability of licensed service providers to pay salaries adequate to  
12 meet this intent.

13 (2) The first priority for vendor rate increases, special salary  
14 related legislative appropriations, and inflationary adjustments shall  
15 be to increase salaries of direct care staff.

1       (3) Service providers shall adopt minimum qualifications for  
2 personnel that ensure that clients will be well-served and that  
3 personnel costs will be no greater than is necessary to provide  
4 adequate care.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**       The sum of fifteen million dollars, or  
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general  
7 fund to the department of social and health services for the biennium  
8 ending June 30, 1993, to increase the salaries of direct care staff of  
9 licensed service providers, as defined in chapter 71.24 RCW, to a level  
10 sufficient to recruit and retain qualified personnel.