
SENATE BILL 5856

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Wojahn, L. Smith, Oke, Niemi, L. Kreidler, West, von Reichbauer, Madsen, Amondson, Rasmussen and Thorsness.

Read first time February 26, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to pilot projects for developmentally disabled
2 persons with mental illness; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A
3 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that some one
6 hundred seventy developmentally disabled persons with mental illness,
7 or dually diagnosed persons, have been psychiatric inpatients at state
8 or community hospitals each year. The legislature finds that many of
9 these individuals did not require hospitalization. The legislature
10 finds that these inappropriate hospitalizations are prompted by ongoing
11 problems with intradepartmental service integration in combination with
12 shortages of appropriate and effective community supports. The
13 legislature finds that these inappropriate hospitalizations are
14 inconsistent with legislative intent regarding the provision of
15 supports to developmentally disabled citizens in the least restrictive,

1 integrated, and appropriate environment possible. For these reasons,
2 the legislature declares that the department of social and health
3 services should develop and implement pilot projects to provide
4 appropriate specialized programs and improve intradepartmental service
5 integration and efficiency for dually diagnosed citizens.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall develop and implement two four-year pilot
9 projects, one located in eastern Washington and one located in western
10 Washington. The pilot projects shall be designed to integrate the
11 delivery of both existing and new services for eligible developmentally
12 disabled citizens who have been psychiatric inpatients in a state or
13 community hospital. The pilot projects should emphasize integrated
14 community living but may include provision for secure institutional
15 placements if adequate community placements cannot be developed.
16 Community supports may include supervised residences, behavioral
17 programming, specialized day programs, outpatient mental health
18 counseling, or other programs and services appropriate to the
19 individual's behavioral and mental health needs.

20 (2) The department shall submit an annual progress report detailing
21 the activities of the proposed pilot projects to the appropriate
22 standing committees of the legislature by December 1st of each year.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of dollars, or as much
24 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
25 June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department of social and
26 health services for the purposes of this act.