

5279-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
(originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Hargrove, Long,
Fairley, Prentice and Winsley)

Brief Title: Regulating the placement of children in mental health
treatment by the department of social and health services.

SB 5279-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares an intent of the legislature that children in the custody of the department of social and health services pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW be provided the most appropriate possible mental health care consistent with the child's best interests, medical need for mental health treatment, available state and community resources, family reconciliation, and professional standards of medical care.

Intends that admission of such minors for mental health hospitalization be made pursuant to the criteria and standards for mental health services for minors established in chapter 71.34 RCW and that minor children in the custody of the department in need of mental health hospitalization shall retain all rights set forth therein.

Intends that this act shall not be construed to affect the standards or procedures established for the involuntary commitment of minors under chapter 71.34 RCW.

Requires that a dependent child who is admitted to an inpatient mental health facility shall be placed in a facility, with available treatment space, that is closest to the family home, unless the department, in consultation with the admitting authority finds that admission in the facility closest to the child's home would jeopardize the health or safety of the child.