

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2011

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Health Care

**Title:** An act relating to public psychiatric facilities.

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

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

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 2/20/01, 2/22/01 [DP].

**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.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives Campbell, Republican Co-Chair; Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Skinner, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Conway, Darneille, Edmonds, Edwards, Marine, McMorris, Pennington and Ruderman.

**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.

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**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.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

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

**Testimony For:** The law needs to be clarified to specifically include public entities in the licensing requirement for establishing hospitals and institutions serving the mentally ill.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Representative Campbell, prime sponsor; Jean Wessman, Association of Counties; George Walk, Pierce County; Karl Brimmer, Department of Social and Health Services; and Gary Bennett, Department of Health.