

5886

Sponsor(s): Senators Long and Hargrove

Brief Description: Authorizing agreements to change the number of experts or professional persons who must make competency evaluations for the state under chapter 10.77 RCW.

SB 5886 - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 2/05/02)

Finds that when experts or professional persons for the state examine a defendant under chapter 10.77 RCW, the use of multiple evaluators rarely results in differing reports.

Finds that the requirement of at least two experts or professional persons may place a barrier to conducting evaluations in local jails in some jurisdictions because of the strain it places on staffing resources at the state hospital.

Finds that when evaluations cannot be done in the local jail there is additional pressure placed on state hospital capacity and less time to restore competency.

Declares an intent to remove the double staffing barrier in those cases where the parties agree that the state needs only one evaluator.