2SHB 2912 - S COMM AMD
    By Committee on Human Services & Corrections

1   Strike   everything   after   the   enacting   clause   and   insert   the
2   following:

3   "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that designated
4   mental health professionals go out into the community to evaluate
5   people for potential detention under the state's involuntary treatment
6   act.   Also, other mental health professionals do crisis outreach work
7   in communities throughout Washington state.   The presence of a second
8   mental health professional on outreach to a person's private home or
9   other private location will enhance safety, will provide for a second
10   mental health expert to help evaluate the person's needs, and will
11   advance the legislature's interest in quality mental health care
12   services.

13   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
14   to read as follows:
15   (1) If a designated mental health professional or other mental
16   health crisis outreach worker visits a client in the client's private
17   home or in any other nonpublic setting, he or she shall be accompanied
18   by another mental health worker who has received training under section
19   5 of this act.
20   (2) Exceptions may be made to the provisions of subsection (1) of
21   this section only under the following circumstances:
22   (a) A comprehensive phone screening and documented assessment was
23   conducted by the assigned designated mental health professional;
24   (b) The decision was evidence-based and documented in writing and
25   not due to lack of staffing or time constraints; and
26   (c) The   documented   evidence   includes   both   clinical   and
27   environmental assessments which have been approved by the assigned
28   designated mental health professional's supervisor. The environmental
29   assessment shall include reasonable belief that there will be a

1   competent person present in the home during the home visit and there
2   will be no weapons in the home. The clinical assessment shall include
3   the following information regarding the person being assessed: Current
4   mental status, any history of violent behavior, any prior diagnosis,
5   and any suicide assessments. If this information is not available,
6   subsection (1) of this chapter may not be waived.

7   (3) Documentation regarding individuals who are assessed must be
8   retained by the agency in the client's file and made available to
9   designated mental health professionals for review.

10   (4) There shall be no retaliation against a worker who refuses to
11 go on a home visit alone.

12   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14   The employer shall ensure that any mental health professional who
15 engages in home visits to clients is equipped with an effective
16 emergency communication device.

17   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19   Any mental health professional that is dispatched on a crisis
20 outreach visit shall have prompt access to existing case files, if any
21 exist, on the client they are being sent to evaluate.

22   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24   Annually, all community mental health employees who work directly
25 with clients shall be provided with training on safety and violence
26 prevention. The curriculum for the training shall be developed
27 collaboratively among the department of social and health services,
28 contracted mental health providers, and employee organizations that
29 represent community mental health workers.

30   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act shall be known as the Marty Smith
31 Law.

32   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this

1 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
2 June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
3 void."

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4   On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "professionals;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter 71.05
6 RCW; and creating new sections."

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