

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 6791

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

**Title:** An act relating to clarifying permitted uses of moneys currently collected under the county legislative authority sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services or therapeutic courts.

**Brief Description:** Clarifying permitted uses of moneys currently collected under the county legislative authority sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services or therapeutic courts.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Stevens and Marr).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care & Wellness: 2/25/08, 2/27/08 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Clarifies the uses of a sales and use tax of one-tenth of 1 percent for the purpose of providing new or expanded chemical dependency or mental health treatment services and for the operation of new or expanded therapeutic court programs.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Barlow, Campbell, Green, Moeller, Pedersen, Schual-Berke and Seaquist.

**Minority Report:** Without recommendation. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Condotta and DeBolt.

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

In 2005 the Legislature passed legislation authorizing county legislative authorities to impose a sales and use tax of one-tenth of 1 percent for the purpose of providing new or expanded chemical dependency or mental health treatment services and for the operation of new or expanded therapeutic court programs.

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**Summary of Bill:**

This bill clarifies that monies collected under the sales and use tax authorized by the Legislature may be used for the operation or delivery of programs and services. Monies collected by the sales and use tax may be used to replace lapsed federal funding previously provided for the operation or delivery of chemical dependency or mental health treatment services and programs.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This is a valuable local option to support programs helping people with a mental illness or a chemical dependency. Counties need flexibility to ensure the money they choose to raise can be spent in the best way possible.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Mia Wells, National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless; Nick Federici, Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance and the United Way of King County; and Carey Morris, Washington State Association of Counties.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.