

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6539

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Human Services & Corrections, February 2, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to treatment for behavioral health disorders.

**Brief Description:** Facilitating treatment for behavioral health disorders.

**Sponsors:** Senator Brandland.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 1/26/10, 2/02/10 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6539 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Chair; Regala, Vice Chair; Stevens, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Carrell, Kauffman and McAuliffe.

**Staff:** Kevin Black (786-7747)

**Background:** Some facilities in Washington provide residential treatment to both individuals with substance abuse disorders and individuals with mental health disorders. Current state law and regulation requires approved substance abuse treatment programs to be discrete from other treatment programs. This has been interpreted as requiring patients with substance abuse disorders and patients with mental health disorders to be assigned to separate sleeping rooms.

**Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute):** A certified crisis facility which serves clients who have substance abuse disorders and clients who have mental health disorders need not divide these clients into separate sleeping rooms.

**EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute):** The scope of the bill is limited to a certified crisis facility, which is defined as a certified detoxification, triage, or crisis stabilization program.

**Appropriation:** None.

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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.*

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill:** PRO: Treatment providers want to have another tool in the toolbox which they can use when it is appropriate in order to help more people.

OTHER: We support the intent of this legislation. We are concerned that the way the bill is drafted may create unintended consequences that would undermine the independence of chemical dependency programs. It may be possible to accomplish the intent of the bill through a rule change.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Brandland, prime sponsor.

OTHER: Rashi Gupta, Washington Association of Counties; Linda Grant, Association of Alcohol and Addiction Programs.