
SENATE BILL 5101

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Stevens, and Shin

Read first time 01/13/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to community residential programs vendor rates;
2 adding a new section to chapter 71A.10 RCW; creating a new section;
3 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department of
6 social and health services' current geographical classifications for
7 setting vendor rates for supported living providers create a
8 competitive disadvantage for Snohomish county providers compared to
9 King county providers. Although King and Snohomish counties are often
10 classified as part of the same metropolitan area for funding purposes,
11 the current department classifications provide significantly higher
12 rates for King county vendors. This results in significantly higher
13 salaries for King county supported living workers. This lures
14 Snohomish county workers to King county for the higher salaries,
15 causing an unsustainably high turnover in Snohomish county.

16 The 2007 vendor rate increases provided a higher rate increase for
17 King county. This exacerbated an already difficult problem. The
18 legislature recognizes that the cost of doing business for supported

1 living providers is nearly identical in King and Snohomish counties.
2 The legislature intends that Snohomish county supported living vendors
3 be paid the same rate as King county supported living vendors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.10 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 For the purposes of setting vendor rates for supported living
7 providers, the department must use the following geographic categories:

8 (1) Region 1: Snohomish and King counties;

9 (2) Region 2: Asotin, Chelan, Cowlitz, Benton, Clark, Franklin,
10 Island, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Spokane, Thurston,
11 Whatcom, and Yakima counties; and

12 (3) Region 3: Adams, Clallam, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield,
13 Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln,
14 Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Orielle, San Juan, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla
15 Walla, and Whitman counties.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 July 1, 2009.

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