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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5333**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, McAuliffe, Rolfes, Becker, Schlicher, Harper, Nelson, Hobbs, Frockt, Kline, and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/13.

1           AN ACT Relating to mental health first aid; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 71.24 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a lack of  
5 information about mental health problems amongst the general public  
6 leads to stigmatizing attitudes and prevents people from seeking help  
7 early and seeking the best sort of help. It also prevents people from  
8 providing support to family members, friends, and colleagues because  
9 they might not know what to do. This lack of knowledge about mental  
10 health problems limits the initial accessibility of evidence-based  
11 treatments and leads to a lack of support for people with a mental  
12 disorder from family, friends, and other members of the community.

13           (2) The focus on training for teachers and educational staff is  
14 intended to provide opportunities for early intervention when the first  
15 signs of developing mental illness may be recognized in children,  
16 teens, and young adults, so that appropriate referrals may be made to  
17 evidence-based behavioral health services.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW  
2   to read as follows:

3        The department shall provide funds for mental health first-aid  
4   training targeted at teachers and educational staff. The training will  
5   follow the model developed by the department of psychology in  
6   Melbourne, Australia. Instruction provided will describe common mental  
7   disorders that arise in youth, their possible causes and risk factors,  
8   the availability of evidence-based medical, psychological, and  
9   alternative treatments, processes for making referrals for behavioral  
10   health services, and methods to effectively render assistance in both  
11   initial intervention and crisis situations. The department shall  
12   collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
13   to identify sites and methods of instruction that leverage local  
14   resources to the extent possible for the purpose of making the mental  
15   health first-aid training broadly available.

16        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   If specific funding for the purposes of this  
17   act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
18   June 30, 2013, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
19   void.

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