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**SENATE BILL 5403**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Conway, O'Ban, Darneille, Cleveland, Rivers, and Benton

AN ACT Relating to competency to stand trial evaluations; amending RCW 10.77.073; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 10.77.073 and 2013 c 284 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) If, at the time of a referral for an evaluation of competency to stand trial in a jail for an in-custody defendant, the department has not met the performance target for timely completion of competency evaluations under RCW 10.77.068(1)(a)(ii) during the most recent quarter in fifty percent of cases submitted by the referring county, as documented in the most recent quarterly report under RCW 10.77.068(3) or confirmed by records maintained by the department, the department shall reimburse the county for the cost of appointing a qualified expert or professional person under RCW 10.77.060(1)(a) subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section. In any quarter, if the department does not perform at least one-third the number of competency evaluations as performed by the referring county, the department shall reimburse the county for competency evaluations provided by its panel of experts as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(2) Appointment of a qualified expert or professional person under this section must be from a list of qualified experts or professional persons assembled with participation by representatives of the prosecuting attorney and the defense bar of the county. The qualified expert or professional person shall complete an evaluation and report that includes the components specified in RCW 10.77.060(3).

(3) The county shall provide a copy of the evaluation report to the applicable state hospital upon referral of the defendant for admission to the state hospital. The county shall maintain data on the timeliness of competency evaluations completed under this section.

(4) A qualified expert or professional person appointed by a court under this section must be compensated for competency evaluations in an amount that will encourage in-depth evaluation reports. ((~~Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,~~))The department shall reimburse the county in an amount determined by the department to be fair and reasonable with the county paying any excess costs. The amount of reimbursement established by the department must at least meet the equivalent amount for evaluations conducted by the department.

((~~(4) [(5)]~~))(5) Nothing in this section precludes either party from objecting to the appointment of an evaluator on the basis that an inpatient evaluation is appropriate under RCW 10.77.060(1)(d).

((~~(5) [(6)]~~))(6) This section expires June 30, ((~~2016~~))2019.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

**--- END ---**