
SENATE BILL 5781

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Billig, O'Ban, Darneille, Frockt, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/02/15. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to procedures for responding to reports of
2 threatened or attempted suicide; adding a new section to chapter
3 71.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A peace officer who responds to a report of threatened or
8 attempted suicide and does not take the person who is the subject of
9 the report into custody may note in the incident report that the
10 person is in need of a mental health evaluation.

11 (2) An incident report noting a need for a mental health
12 evaluation must be forwarded to a local designated mental health
13 professional agency within twelve hours of entry of the incident
14 report.

15 (3) As soon as possible, but no later than twelve hours from
16 receiving the report, a designated mental health professional must
17 attempt to contact the person who is the subject of the report to
18 assess whether or not the person meets initial detention criteria
19 under RCW 71.05.150 or 71.05.153. Documentation of the designated
20 mental health professional's attempt to contact and assess the person

1 must be maintained by the designated mental health professional
2 agency.

3 (4) By January 1, 2016, law enforcement agencies must have a
4 system in place for officers to document, as part of an incident
5 report, the need for a mental health evaluation of a person who is
6 the subject of a report of threatened or attempted suicide. The
7 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must assist
8 local jurisdictions in establishing systems and protocols to satisfy
9 this requirement.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as
11 Sheena's law.

--- END ---