
SENATE BILL 5792

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senator Darneille

Read first time 02/03/15. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a centralized office of forensic
2 mental health services; and adding a new section to chapter 10.77
3 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 10.77
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) In order to prioritize goals of accuracy, prompt service to
8 the court, quality assurance, and integration with other services, an
9 office of forensic mental health services is established within the
10 department of social and health services. The office shall be led by
11 a director on at least the level of deputy assistant secretary within
12 the department who shall, after a reasonable period of transition,
13 have responsibility for the following functions:

14 (a) Operational control of all forensic evaluation services,
15 including specific budget allocation;

16 (b) Responsibility for training forensic evaluators;

17 (c) Development of a system to certify forensic evaluators, and
18 to monitor the quality of forensic evaluation reports;

19 (d) Liaison with courts, jails, and community mental health
20 programs to ensure proper flow of information, coordinate logistical
21 issues, and solve problems in complex circumstances;

1 (e) Coordination with state hospitals to identify and develop
2 best practice interventions and curricula for services that are
3 unique to forensic patients;

4 (f) Promotion of congruence across state hospitals where
5 appropriate, and promotion of interventions that flow smoothly into
6 community interventions;

7 (g) Coordination with regional support networks, behavioral
8 health organizations, community mental health agencies, and the
9 department of corrections regarding community treatment and
10 monitoring of persons on conditional release;

11 (h) Oversight of forensic data collection and analysis statewide,
12 and appropriate dissemination of data trends and recommendations; and

13 (i) Oversight of the development, implementation, and maintenance
14 of community forensic programs and services.

15 (2) The office of forensic mental health services must have a
16 clearly delineated budget separate from the overall budget for state
17 hospital services.

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