
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1819

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Dent, Senn, Kagi, Griffey, Johnson, and McBride)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to paperwork reduction in order to improve the
2 availability of mental health services to protect children and
3 families; adding a new section to chapter 71.24 RCW; creating new
4 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a prioritized
7 recommendation of the children's mental health work group as reported
8 in December 2016 is to reduce burdensome and duplicative paperwork
9 requirements for providers of children's mental health services.

10 The legislature further finds that these duplicative
11 documentation requirements for providers have a negative impact on
12 the adequacy of the network of mental health providers and create
13 costly barriers to the efficient provision of services for children
14 and their families.

15 Therefore, the legislature intends to require the department of
16 social and health services to take steps to reduce paperwork and
17 documentation requirements which are inefficient or duplicative for
18 providers of children's mental health services.

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

1 (1) The department must immediately perform a review of its
2 rules, policies, and procedures related to the documentation
3 requirements for behavioral health services with regard to individual
4 initial assessments. The review must identify areas in which
5 duplicative or inefficient documentation requirements can be
6 eliminated or streamlined for providers. The department must complete
7 the review by November 1, 2017. Upon completion of the review, the
8 department must take immediate steps to amend department rules
9 accordingly.

10 (2) This section expires December 31, 2018.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
12 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
13 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
14 act is null and void.

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