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SENATE BILL 5159

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Baumgartner and O'Ban

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Human Services,  
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to community safety at eastern and western state  
2 hospitals; adding new sections to chapter 72.23 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the cities  
6 where eastern and western state hospitals are located provide vital  
7 services to the hospitals to maintain patient and community safety.  
8 In particular, the legislature recognizes that the community policing  
9 program at western state hospital facilitates a safer community and  
10 increased communication between the hospital and the community. The  
11 legislature also recognizes that state hospitals are exempt from  
12 paying property taxes to support these services. Historically, when  
13 funded, these services have been funded through individual budget  
14 provisos directing state funding to the cities. The legislature  
15 recognizes that this budgeting approach is an unreliable and  
16 inconsistent manner in which to fund public and community safety  
17 services. Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to establish a  
18 permanent funding mechanism for these services by directing eastern  
19 and western state hospitals to enter into contracts with the cities  
20 in which they are located.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 72.23  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) Western state hospital and eastern state hospital shall each  
4    enter into a contract with the city where the respective hospitals  
5    are located to compensate the city for providing public safety  
6    services, including but not limited to 911 response service and  
7    police calls.

8        (2) Beginning in the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, each contract  
9    described in subsection (1) of this section shall be equal to nine  
10   cents per square foot of the respective state hospital. In each  
11   subsequent fiscal biennium, the hospital shall make adjustments for  
12   any changes in square footage.

13       (3) The cities may not bond the revenue allocated in the  
14   contracts outlined in this section.

15       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 72.23  
16    RCW to read as follows:

17       (1) Western state hospital shall enter into a contract with the  
18    city in which it is located for the provision of community policing  
19    services at the hospital and in the surrounding areas.

20       (2) For the purposes of this section, community policing services  
21    include, but are not limited to, dedicated police personnel whose  
22    specific duties are to provide response, reporting, and investigative  
23    services above and beyond the basic patrol response, to proactively  
24    address public safety issues at the hospital through interaction with  
25    the public about incidents relating to the state hospital, to  
26    investigate complaints of patient and staff-related incidents, and to  
27    conduct training for hospital staff.

28       (3) Beginning in the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, the contract  
29    described in subsection (1) of this section must be no less than six  
30    hundred twenty-one thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars. In each  
31    subsequent fiscal biennium, the hospital shall make adjustments for  
32    inflation.

33       (4) The city shall not bond the revenue allocated in the contract  
34    outlined in this section.

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