
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6311

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger, O'Ban, Dhingra, and Wagoner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to persons with substance use disorders; adding a
2 new section to chapter 71.24 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The authority shall prepare a gap analysis for delivery to
7 the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by
8 December 1, 2020, including an analysis of workforce needs that would
9 need to be met in order to provide the following policy requirements:

10 (a) Every person who presents to an emergency room, evaluation
11 and treatment center, crisis triage facility, or crisis stabilization
12 unit with an indication of a substance use disorder, opioid overdose,
13 or chronic addiction, in the professional opinion of the medical
14 staff, must receive, with patient consent, prior to discharge:

15 (i) A screening for the need for substance use disorder services
16 using a validated screening tool;

17 (ii) If the screening indicates a need for substance use disorder
18 services, a referral for a substance use disorder evaluation and
19 appropriate services;

20 (iii) If the screening indicates a need for substance use
21 disorder services, and the patient consents, a referral to a

1 certified substance use disorder peer counselor, including
2 transmittal of patient information to the certified substance use
3 disorder peer counselor or agency providing certified substance use
4 disorder peer counselor services so that outreach can be made to the
5 patient; and

6 (iv) Access to information about available substance use disorder
7 treatment services.

8 (b) The fact of the screening or patient refusal and any other
9 action taken under this section must be noted in the patient's
10 medical record.

11 (c) The requirements of this section may be satisfied through the
12 use of telemedicine or other innovative service models.

13 (d) The requirements of this section may not be used to extend
14 the length of stay of a patient in an emergency room, evaluation and
15 treatment center, crisis triage facility, or crisis stabilization
16 unit.

17 (e) For the purpose of the gap analysis, the authority may assume
18 that it would:

19 (i) Develop best practice protocols including guidance for
20 identifying clients who present with an indication of a substance use
21 disorder, opioid overdose, or chronic addiction, and for referring
22 them for an evaluation and appropriate services; and

23 (ii) Develop a system to make accurate information about
24 clinically appropriate substance use disorder services available to
25 facilities under (a) of this subsection and develop a strategy to
26 update this information.

27 (2) This section expires January 1, 2023.

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