
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6553

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Dhingra, Keiser, Llias, Van De Wege, Cleveland, Darneille, Das, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lovelett, Saldaña, Salomon, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to facilitating access to appropriate mental
2 health treatment for victims of gun violence; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28B.20 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the epidemic of
6 gun violence has led to a corresponding increase in the number of
7 persons experiencing gun-related trauma. Those impacted by gun
8 violence may include victims, survivors, their families, and friends.
9 Mental health treatment available for impacted individuals may be
10 inadequate or inaccessible without assistance navigating the health
11 system. The legislature finds that the state must address the growing
12 need for mental health care responsive to gun violence in a
13 comprehensive manner that promotes evidence-based treatment.
14 Furthermore, the legislature finds there is a moral imperative to
15 help persons affected by trauma related to gun violence obtain
16 comprehensive information about treatment options and to access
17 appropriate care.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 specific purpose, the University of Washington shall contract with a
3 level one trauma center in the state of Washington to provide a
4 statewide helpline, counseling, and referral service for victims,
5 friends, and family members impacted by gun violence and community
6 professionals, legal practitioners, health providers, and others who
7 engage with them. The service must be developed in consultation with
8 the office of crime victims advocacy established in RCW 43.280.080,
9 and include the opportunity for brief clinical encounters, problem
10 solving, and referral to the best statewide resources available to
11 meet their needs. The service must become conversant with providers
12 across the state that are trained in evidence-based trauma therapy
13 and establish relationships to ensure specific knowledge of available
14 resources. The office of crime victims advocacy established in RCW
15 43.280.080 must provide consultation within existing resources.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The University of Washington department of
17 psychiatry and behavioral sciences shall develop a best practice
18 guide for therapy for gun violence victims in collaboration with the
19 harborview center for sexual assault and traumatic stress. The guide
20 must summarize the state of the knowledge in this area and provide
21 recommendations for areas of focus and action that are meaningful and
22 practical for different constituencies. The guide must be made
23 available to the public online and disseminated across the state to
24 appropriate entities including but not limited to medical examiner's
25 offices, prosecuting attorneys, level one and level two trauma
26 centers, and victim support organizations.

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