

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1314

C 125 L 21
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning veteran diversion from involuntary commitment.

Sponsors: House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Young, Lovick, Dufault, Hackney, Bateman, Rule, Lekanoff, Pollet and Callan).

House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary
Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care
Senate Committee on Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care

Background:

Designated Crisis Responder Evaluations Under the Involuntary Treatment Act.

Under the Involuntary Treatment Act, a person may be committed by a court for involuntary treatment if he or she, due to a behavioral health disorder, poses a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled and will not consent to voluntary treatment.

Designated crisis responders (DCR) are responsible for investigating and determining whether a person may be in need of involuntary treatment. A person may be detained by a DCR for up to 120 hours without a court order under emergency circumstances when the DCR receives information that a person presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled. Additionally, a law enforcement officer may take a person meeting the emergency detention standard into custody and immediately deliver him or her to a crisis stabilization unit, evaluation and treatment facility, emergency department, triage facility, secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program. When a person is taken to a facility on an emergent detention, he or she may be held in the facility for up to 12 hours for a DCR investigation, provided that they must be examined by a mental health professional or chemical dependency professional within three hours of arrival, not counting time periods prior to medical clearance.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Veteran's Health Administration.

The Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) is a division of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs which provides health care to qualified veterans.

Summary:

During the 12-hour period in which a person may be held in a facility for evaluation by a DCR, the facility must inquire into the person's veteran status or eligibility for veteran's benefits. If the person identifies as a veteran or is eligible for veteran's status, the facility must ask the person whether he or she would be amenable to treatment by the VHA, and the information must be shared with the DCR. If amenable, the DCR must first refer the person to the VHA for behavioral health treatment at a facility that meets the person's needs. If accepted for treatment at a VHA facility, the DCR, the VHA, and the facility where the person is located will coordinate transport to the VHA facility.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0
Senate	49	0

Effective: July 25, 2021
July 1, 2026 (Section 2)