
HOUSE BILL 1883

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Chopp, Ryu, Santos, Simmons, Slatter, Stonier, Wicks, Peterson, Goodman, Ormsby, Dolan, Ramel, Taylor, Callan, Riccelli, Lekanoff, Davis, Fey, Macri, Valdez, and Pollet

Read first time 01/11/22. Referred to Committee on Children, Youth & Families.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a lifeline for youth and young
2 adults who have experienced or are at risk of entering into public
3 systems of care; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and providing
4 an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that youth and
7 young adults continue to disproportionately exit public systems of
8 care into chronic instability, such as homelessness and involvement
9 in the criminal legal system. Further, support systems in Washington
10 are unnecessarily fragmented and often difficult for youth and young
11 adults to navigate during times of need. The legislature finds that
12 cascading impacts of insufficient support and mentorship create
13 systemic barriers and increased rates of chronic stress and trauma
14 including, but not limited to, reduced high school graduation rates,
15 chronic homelessness, increased child welfare and juvenile justice
16 and criminal legal system involvement, limited postsecondary
17 education attainment, and greater barriers to employment in
18 adulthood.

19 (2) The legislature finds that preventative services are more
20 cost-effective than emergency services, and that preventative
21 services yield better long-term results for beneficiaries and

1 Washington's economy. The legislature recognizes that people with
2 personal experience in public systems of care have a unique
3 perspective and outlook on life to improve work environments,
4 culture, and equitability. The legislature further finds that an
5 effective and accessible lifeline to services is necessary to the
6 health of Washington's economy.

7 (3) The legislature recognizes that a report commissioned by the
8 department of commerce in 2020 found that young persons are more
9 likely to experience chronic stress and trauma when they are not
10 discharged into safe and stable environments. The legislature further
11 finds that one in four of youth and young adults exiting public
12 systems of care experienced housing instability within 12 months. The
13 legislature finds that system modification is needed to improve
14 outcomes for youth and young adults through better transition
15 planning and support before and after exit from public systems of
16 care. The legislature finds that access to resource assistance for
17 youth and young adults with experience in public systems of care
18 needs to be streamlined. In communities where resources are
19 inadequate to meet the demand, the state must directly fill existing
20 gaps and promote community partnerships as the basis of a shared
21 coalition to create additional resources.

22 (4) Therefore, the legislature intends to establish streamlined
23 support and access to services for youth and young adults who have
24 experienced or are at risk of entering public systems of care. The
25 legislature intends to establish the lifeline for independent living
26 to facilitate and promote partnerships across state agencies, tribes,
27 counties, and community-based providers to coordinate trauma-
28 informed, healing-centered, and culturally responsive services for
29 youth and young adults and their natural supports to facilitate
30 stability.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
32 appropriated for this specific purpose, the office of the governor,
33 in collaboration with the department of commerce, shall establish the
34 lifeline for independent living to provide support and connections to
35 services for youth and young adults, who have experienced or are at
36 risk of entering into public systems of care, and who require
37 assistance to overcome a life challenge that could escalate into a
38 crisis, or are in need of general mentorship and counsel. The
39 lifeline shall facilitate and promote partnerships across state

1 agencies, tribes, counties, and community-based providers to
2 coordinate trauma-informed and culturally responsive services for
3 youth and young adults and their supports.

4 (2) Activities of the lifeline must be carried out by a director
5 of the lifeline, supervised by the office of the governor. The
6 director shall oversee the administration, programs, and policies of
7 the lifeline in accordance with the principles in this chapter.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
9 appropriated for this specific purpose, a lifeline for independent
10 living task force is established to determine the lifeline's
11 structure, policy, and best practices. The lifeline for independent
12 living task force shall be administered by the department of
13 commerce.

14 (2) The lifeline for independent living task force shall include
15 at a minimum representation from the department of commerce, the
16 department of children, youth, and families, the office of the
17 governor, a Washington or federally recognized Indian tribe,
18 Washington counties, community-based providers and advocacy
19 organizations, and youth and young adults with personal experience in
20 each public system of care. To the extent possible, the lifeline for
21 independent living task force membership should include
22 representatives from geographically diverse and priority populations.

23 (3) This section expires January 30, 2023.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The lifeline for independent living
25 shall assume performance of the following activities:

26 (a) Establishment of four lifeline regional centers across the
27 state by January 1, 2023, with a headquarters located in Olympia. The
28 lifeline shall be operational throughout the state by January 1,
29 2024;

30 (b) Creation of training modules for lifeline regional center
31 volunteers by December 1, 2022, and coordination of the activities of
32 the lifeline throughout the centers according to standards adopted by
33 the lifeline;

34 (c) Establishment of a toll-free telephone number, website, and
35 other appropriate technology to facilitate access to contracting
36 advocacy organization services for youth and young adults accessing
37 the lifeline;

1 (d) Formation of rules and procedures to provide proactive
2 support to youth and young adults who access the lifeline who cannot
3 be served sufficiently through existing services;

4 (e) Establishment of a uniform reporting system to collect and
5 analyze nonidentifiable data relating to calls and services provided
6 by lifeline volunteers or facilities for the purpose of identifying
7 and resolving significant problems, and to submit the data to all
8 appropriate state agencies on a regular basis; and

9 (f) (i) Establishment of a steering committee to oversee
10 operations of the lifeline and ensure satisfactory coordination of
11 services.

12 (ii) The steering committee membership shall be comprised of the
13 members of the task force established in section 3 of this act and
14 shall include at a minimum representation from the department of
15 commerce, the department of children, youth, and families, the office
16 of the governor, a Washington or federally recognized Indian tribe,
17 Washington counties, community-based providers and advocacy
18 organizations, and youth and young adults with personal experience in
19 each public system of care.

20 (iii) The steering committee shall provide guidance and
21 recommendations to the lifeline program regarding funding, policy,
22 and practice gaps within and among state programs.

23 (iv) The steering committee must have its initial meeting no
24 later than March 1, 2023.

25 (2) Beginning December 30, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
26 lifeline for independent living must submit, in compliance with RCW
27 43.01.036, a report to the governor and appropriate committees of the
28 legislature with findings and recommendations for improving services
29 and service delivery from subsection (1) of this section. The report
30 shall include the following:

31 (a) The number of individuals who have accessed the resources
32 described in subsection (1) of this section;

33 (b) The number of service providers and organizations, by type,
34 who the lifeline has accessed for the resources described in
35 subsection (1) of this section;

36 (c) Demographic information, as available, for the individuals
37 described in (a) of this subsection. Demographic information may not
38 include any personally identifiable information and must be limited
39 to the individual's age, gender, and city and county of residence;

40 (d) A description of resources provided;

1 (e) Average time frame from receipt of call to referral for
2 services or resources provided; and

3 (f) Systemic barriers to services.

4 (3) The lifeline for independent living shall designate a liaison
5 who reports directly to the director of the lifeline to serve as the
6 liaison between state agencies, the office of the governor, the
7 legislature, and community partners to identify long-term solutions
8 for issues that require use of the account established in section 5
9 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The lifeline for independent living
11 account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from moneys
12 directed to the account must be deposited in the account. Moneys in
13 the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from
14 the account may be used for activities that are dedicated to the
15 benefit of youth and young adults who have or are expected to
16 experience public systems of care.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The definitions in this section apply
18 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
19 otherwise.

20 (1) "Lifeline" means the lifeline for independent living
21 established in section 2 of this act.

22 (2) "Public systems of care" means office of homeless youth
23 prevention and protection shelter and housing programs, the juvenile
24 justice system, dependency under chapter 13.34 RCW, and inpatient
25 behavioral health treatment.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
27 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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