
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5328

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Lovelett, Dhingra, Darneille, Das, Frockt, Nguyen, Nobles, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/22/21. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to clubhouses and peer-run organizations for
2 persons with mental illness; adding a new section to chapter 71.24
3 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:

6 (1) A clubhouse is a member organization where people living with
7 mental illness can find fellowship, hope, opportunity, and recovery.
8 Clubhouse programs offer vocational training, wellness programs,
9 employment opportunities, participative community, and an end to
10 isolation for persons whose lives have been severely disrupted by
11 mental illness.

12 (2) Strong evidence supports the clubhouse model when implemented
13 with fidelity. The most effective clubhouses obtain development
14 training, support, and accreditation through clubhouse international.

15 (3) Washington state supports several clubhouse programs using
16 general fund dollars, but can go farther to help clubhouses gain
17 access to medicaid funds while allowing them to maintain fidelity to
18 evidence-based models. As a result, clubhouse programs receive
19 insufficient funding and support, which prevents these programs from
20 spreading widely throughout the state or reaching their full
21 potential to assist persons with mental illness to find community and

1 new purpose in recovery. Similar issues are confronted in Washington
2 state by other peer-run organizations.

3 (4) Assisting clubhouses and peer-run organizations to access
4 sustainable medicaid and nonmedicaid funding while remaining true to
5 their evidence-based models and essential character as clubhouses and
6 peer-run organizations requires careful attention to detail, ranging
7 from the level of the design of the state medicaid plan to the design
8 and enforcement of regulations for the licensure and operations of
9 clubhouses and peer-run organizations by the department of health.
10 The state must provide a streamlined behavioral health agency
11 licensing process which is tailored for clubhouses and other peer-run
12 organizations. Regulations for medicaid services provided in a
13 clubhouse or peer-run organization should be adapted to allow these
14 entities to leverage federal funding to the extent possible while
15 allowing them to maintain fidelity to their evidence-based models and
16 essential character as clubhouses and peer-run organizations. In the
17 case of clubhouses, funding should be structured to provide
18 incentives and support for the clubhouses to move towards
19 accreditation by clubhouse international.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 Subject to the availability of amounts provided for this specific
23 purpose, the authority shall:

24 (1) Make sufficient funding available to establish clubhouse
25 services in every region of the state provided by a clubhouse which
26 is accredited by clubhouse international or in the process of
27 pursuing accreditation by that body;

28 (2) Establish a learning collaborative to assist clubhouses and
29 peer-run organizations to achieve fidelity to appropriate evidence-
30 based models;

31 (3) Collaborate with the department to design the state medicaid
32 program to be as accommodating as possible to clubhouses and peer-run
33 organizations to allow these entities to maximize opportunities to
34 access medicaid funding while at the same time maintaining fidelity
35 to evidence-based models and their essential character as clubhouses
36 and peer-run organizations; and

37 (4) Facilitate partnerships if needed between independent
38 clubhouses or peer-run organizations and licensed or certified
39 behavioral health agencies to help the clubhouses or peer-run

1 organizations obtain referrals, client evaluations, or other
2 assistance needed to meet requirements necessary for them to access
3 funding under the medicaid program.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department of health shall
5 collaborate with the Washington state health care authority and
6 appropriate stakeholders to review and redesign the licensure and
7 oversight process for clubhouses and peer-run organizations in order
8 to accommodate to their ability to obtain medicaid reimbursement
9 while simultaneously maintaining fidelity to evidence-based models
10 and their essential character as clubhouses and peer-run
11 organizations. This shall include efforts to:

12 (a) Identify changes to behavioral health agency rules to
13 streamline licensure requirements for clubhouses and peer-run
14 organizations and to create accessible pathways towards licensure;

15 (b) Identify changes to operational rules for providing medicaid
16 services within clubhouses and peer-run organizations, including but
17 not limited to day support services which are within allowable
18 federal guidelines, and to the extent possible allow these entities
19 to provide those services to be provided with fidelity to evidence-
20 based models while maintaining their essential character as
21 clubhouses and peer-run organizations; and

22 (c) Allow independent clubhouses and peer-run organizations to
23 meet requirements in part by forming partnerships with licensed and
24 certified behavioral health agencies to assist them with federally
25 required tasks that are not an essential part of maintaining fidelity
26 to their evidence-based model.

27 (2) The department shall adopt necessary rule changes by June 30,
28 2022.

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