

2SSB 5555 - H AMD TO APP COMM AMD (H-1886.2/23) **656**

By Representative Graham

NOT ADOPTED 04/12/2023

1 On page 9, after line 35 of the striking amendment, insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. (1) The department, in coordination with
4 the health care authority and in consultation with the Washington
5 state institute for public policy, shall conduct a cost-benefit
6 analysis of the use of certified peer specialists in behavioral health
7 treatment teams for persons with behavioral health conditions. The
8 analysis shall monitor medical assistance clients at up to five
9 behavioral health agencies between January 1, 2026, and December 31,
10 2026, and measure the outcomes for those clients whose care included a
11 certified peer specialist providing peer support services. The
12 outcomes to be considered shall include those measured by the
13 Washington state institute for public policy in its prior studies on
14 peer supports. In addition to other taxpayer costs, the analysis of
15 the costs shall include costs associated with payments for peer
16 support services to medical assistance clients and taxpayer support
17 for certified peer specialist training and licensing costs that are
18 not covered by fees charged to certified peer specialists. The
19 analysis shall consider the effect of peer support services on the
20 areas considered by the Washington state institute for public policy
21 in its prior studies on peer supports, including crime, employment,
22 hospitalization, emergency department visits, homelessness, and
23 behavioral health services.

24 (2) The department shall submit a report of the findings of the
25 cost-benefit analysis in subsection (1) of this section to the
26 governor and the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over
27 health matters by October 1, 2027."

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- 2 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
- 3 internal references accordingly.
- 4
- 5 On page 26, line 36 of the striking amendment, after "through"
- 6 strike "12" and insert "13"
- 7
- 8 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Directs the Department of Health, in coordination with the Health Care Authority and the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), to conduct a cost-benefit analysis related to the use of certified peer specialists. Requires the analysis to monitor medical assistance clients during the 2026 calendar year according to outcomes and subject areas measured by the WSIPP in its prior studies on peer supports. Requires the Department of Health to submit a report of the cost-benefit analysis' findings to the Governor and the health policy committees of the Legislature by October 1, 2027.

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