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**HOUSE BILL 1661**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Maycumber, Springer, Robertson, Chapman,  
Mosbrucker, Rule, Eslick, Taylor, and Paul

Read first time 01/30/23. Referred to Committee on Innovation,  
Community & Economic Development, & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot project for mobile mental  
2 health crisis intervention; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that trauma-  
6 informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques are effective in  
7 ensuring the peaceful resolution of emergency crisis situations  
8 involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction.

9 (2) The legislature further finds that mobile mental health  
10 crisis intervention programs that operate independently of law  
11 enforcement agencies may be an effective alternative or supplement to  
12 police response for nonviolent crises.

13 (3) The legislature intends to appropriate sufficient funding to  
14 the state military department's emergency management division to  
15 establish a program to support mental health first response efforts  
16 in local communities by awarding grants for a pilot project to  
17 establish two emergency crisis assistance teams.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts  
19 appropriated for this specific purpose, the state military  
20 department's emergency management division shall establish the

1 emergency crisis assistance team pilot project. The purpose of the  
2 project is to create two emergency crisis assistance teams that  
3 support community-based public safety and provide mobile mental  
4 health crisis intervention for crises involving mental illness,  
5 homelessness, and addiction.

6 (2) (a) The state military department shall establish a  
7 competitive grant program to award funding for two emergency crisis  
8 assistance teams by September 1, 2023.

9 (b) The state military department shall award two grants, one to  
10 an eligible applicant in a city west of the crest of the Cascade  
11 mountains and one to an eligible applicant in a city east of the  
12 crest of the Cascade mountains.

13 (3) Mental health care service providers are eligible to compete  
14 for grant funding.

15 (4) Grant recipients shall use grant funds to establish an  
16 emergency crisis assistance team that provides the following mobile  
17 mental health crisis intervention programs and services:

- 18 (a) Crisis counseling;
- 19 (b) Suicide prevention, assessment, and intervention;
- 20 (c) Conflict resolution and mediation;
- 21 (d) Grief and loss counseling;
- 22 (e) Substance abuse prevention, assessment, and intervention;
- 23 (f) Housing crisis aid;
- 24 (g) First aid and nonemergency medical care;
- 25 (h) Resource connection and referrals; and
- 26 (i) Transportation to services.

27 (5) Grant recipients shall provide a report to the state military  
28 department on the results of their emergency crisis assistance teams  
29 by October 1, 2024. The state military department shall provide a  
30 report on the emergency crisis assistance team pilot project to the  
31 governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,  
32 2024.

33 (6) This section expires January 1, 2025.

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