
SENATE BILL 5676

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senator Short

1 AN ACT Relating to siting intensive behavioral health treatment
2 facilities; and amending RCW 71.24.648.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.24.648 and 2019 c 324 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The secretary shall license or certify intensive behavioral
7 health treatment facilities that meet state minimum standards. The
8 secretary must establish rules working with the authority and the
9 department of social and health services to create standards for
10 licensure or certification of intensive behavioral health treatment
11 facilities. The rules, at a minimum, must:

12 (1) Clearly define clinical eligibility criteria in alignment
13 with how "intensive behavioral health treatment facility" is defined
14 in RCW 71.24.025;

15 (2) Require twenty-four hour supervision of residents;

16 (3) Establish staffing requirements that provide an appropriate
17 response to the acuity of the residents, including a clinical team
18 and a high staff to patient ratio;

19 (4) Establish requirements for the ability to provide services
20 and an appropriate level of care to individuals with intellectual or

1 developmental disabilities. The requirements must include staffing
2 and training;

3 (5) Require access to regular psychosocial rehabilitation
4 services including, but not limited to, skills training in daily
5 living activities, social interaction, behavior management, impulse
6 control, and self-management of medications;

7 (6) Establish requirements for the ability to use limited egress;

8 (7) Limit services to persons at least eighteen years of age; and

9 (8) Establish resident rights that are substantially similar to
10 the rights of residents in long-term care facilities;

11 (9) Establish standards requiring applicants for licensure or
12 certification to demonstrate adequate proximity to services and the
13 existence of relationships or agreements necessary to support safe
14 operation of the facility, including access to designated crisis
15 responders, hospitals or facilities licensed or certified to provide
16 services under chapter 71.05 RCW, medical services, emergency
17 responders, and law enforcement; and

18 (10) Require the department to provide notification of the filing
19 of an application for licensure or certification to the county and
20 city government of the area where the proposed intensive behavioral
21 health treatment facility would be sited, with an opportunity for the
22 local county or city government to provide a community impact
23 statement within 25 business days describing the impact of licensure
24 or certification on neighborhood services and other legitimate
25 interests in the community. Receipt of a community impact statement
26 must result in the scheduling of a community meeting within 60 days
27 if such a meeting is requested, which must be attended by the
28 applicant and the department and at which questions relating to the
29 application for licensure or certification may be addressed. The
30 department may use information obtained in the community impact
31 statement or at the community meeting to determine if further steps
32 are needed before approval of licensure or certification to abate
33 legitimate concerns in the community.

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