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**SENATE BILL 5888**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators C. Wilson, Boehnke, Hasegawa, Nguyen, Nobles, and Wellman

Prefiled 12/20/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to statewide health care coordination and  
2 communication regarding individuals housed in confinement settings;  
3 and adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the growing  
6 number of projects and programs between and within government  
7 agencies related to the health of individuals housed in confinement  
8 settings create challenges in coordination and communication. These  
9 health issues include mental health, traumatic brain injury,  
10 substance use, communicable disease and infection prevention, health  
11 preventive services, and excess mortality.

12 The legislature further finds that health in correctional  
13 institutions and other confinement settings is vital to public health  
14 and reentry because many individuals in these settings interact with  
15 and return to their communities. Statewide coordination and  
16 communication efforts for treating individuals in correctional and  
17 other confinement facilities will positively influence the community  
18 and reentry of such individuals.

19 The legislature intends to address the lack of coordination and  
20 communication caused by the numerous projects and programs relating  
21 to individuals housed in confinement settings by creating a new

1 council within the department of health that will be supported by  
2 representation from state agencies, local governments, federally  
3 recognized tribes, and other relevant parties.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
6 otherwise.

7 (1) "Confined" or "confinement" means incarcerated in a  
8 correctional institution or admitted to an institute for mental  
9 disease, as defined in 42 C.F.R. part 435, Sec. 1010.

10 (2) "Correctional institution" has the meaning provided in RCW  
11 9.94.049.

12 (3) "Council" means the council of health care coordination for  
13 justice-involved youth and adults.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The council of health care  
15 coordination for justice-involved youth and adults is hereby created  
16 and located in the department of health for the purpose of addressing  
17 coordination and communication between federally recognized tribes  
18 and state and local agencies that house individuals in confinement  
19 settings.

20 (2)(a) The council shall be composed of the following voting  
21 members:

22 (i) A physician appointed by the secretary of the department of  
23 health;

24 (ii) The secretary of the department of social and health  
25 services, or the secretary's designee;

26 (iii) The director of the health care authority, or the  
27 director's designee;

28 (iv) The secretary of the department of corrections, or the  
29 secretary's designee;

30 (v) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and  
31 families, or the secretary's designee;

32 (vi) One member representing the Washington association of  
33 sheriffs and police chiefs;

34 (vii) One member representing a federally recognized tribe in  
35 Washington state, appointed by the governor's office of Indian  
36 affairs;

37 (viii) The governor or the governor's designee;

1 (ix) One member representing county juvenile court  
2 administrators; and

3 (x) One member with lived experience of using the health care  
4 system in an institution of total confinement.

5 (b) The council may also include as nonvoting members other  
6 attendees as councilmembers deem appropriate including, but not  
7 limited to, additional persons with lived experience of using the  
8 health care system in an institution of total confinement or members  
9 of the public with knowledge of carceral health care.

10 (c) Members of the council shall serve without additional  
11 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
12 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 while attending meetings  
13 of the council or on official business authorized by the council. The  
14 department of health must provide stipends for councilmembers in  
15 accordance with RCW 43.03.220.

16 (3) The chair of the council shall be the physician appointed by  
17 the secretary of the department of health, who will be fully  
18 dedicated to council duties. The council may select other officers as  
19 the voting members deem necessary.

20 (4) Through the department of health, the council shall employ  
21 the following full-time staff positions to support the council's  
22 duties: One data analyst, one administrative assistant, and two  
23 epidemiologists.

24 (5) The council shall meet at least quarterly. Additional  
25 meetings may be called by the chair and shall be called by the chair  
26 upon the written request of eight members. Meetings must be held in  
27 accordance with the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

28 (6) As appropriate, councilmembers are responsible for tracking  
29 activities within their respective agencies or jurisdictions that  
30 relate to the health of individuals housed in facilities of  
31 confinement.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The council shall review current laws  
33 and policies relating to health care information sharing among  
34 agencies that house individuals in jails, the department of  
35 corrections, juvenile rehabilitation facilities, juvenile detention  
36 facilities, western and eastern state hospitals, the special  
37 commitment center, and other entities as the council finds  
38 appropriate. The council shall make recommendations to:

1 (a) Improve and ensure information and data sharing among and  
2 within state agencies regarding the health of adults and juveniles in  
3 such facilities;

4 (b) Improve coordination among and within state and local  
5 agencies and avoid duplication;

6 (c) Provide an easy, fast, and effective forum for communication  
7 and information sharing among the department of health, the health  
8 care authority, the department of social and health services, the  
9 department of corrections, the department of children, youth, and  
10 families, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs,  
11 court administrators, and federal, local, and community  
12 organizations; and

13 (d) Improve communication and information sharing between the  
14 state and its federal partners to proactively address public health  
15 issues.

16 (2) The council may appoint such advisory committees as may be  
17 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The council  
18 shall review each advisory committee on a biennial basis to determine  
19 whether to continue the advisory committee.

20 (3) A council member must participate in or coordinate with any  
21 additional councils or statewide activities created in the future  
22 involving the health of adults and youth who are incarcerated or  
23 otherwise housed in confinement settings.

24 (4) By November 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the council  
25 must submit a report on the council's activities accomplished in the  
26 prior year to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
27 legislature. The report must comply with the requirements of RCW  
28 43.01.036.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act  
30 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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