
SENATE BILL 6125

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Kauffman, Frame, Wellman, Trudeau, J. Wilson, Conway, Kuderer, Lovick, Nguyen, Nobles, Saldaña, Valdez, Wagoner, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to preserving records and artifacts regarding the
2 historical treatment of people with intellectual and developmental
3 disabilities in Washington state; adding a new section to chapter
4 40.14 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that in 2023,
7 numerous records and artifacts were discovered at Lakeland Village, a
8 state-operated facility originally established in 1916 to serve
9 individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The
10 collection of items discovered includes an unknown number of medical
11 records, letters, images, films, and historical artifacts, including
12 letters from family members, artifacts that capture important events,
13 such as props from theater plays, and images of daily life. The
14 legislature finds that preserving historical records and artifacts is
15 crucial to understanding our past treatment of individuals with
16 intellectual and developmental disabilities and to shaping our
17 future. Some of the records and artifacts highlight a darker story of
18 medical sterilization and medical restraint.

19 Therefore, the legislature finds and declares that the Washington
20 state archives shall work with the University of Washington institute
21 on human development and disability to catalogue and preserve such

1 records and artifacts for the purpose of sharing this important
2 history with all Washingtonians and that moving forward the state
3 intends to work directly with those with lived experience to shape
4 future policies and enhance service delivery with the goal of better
5 outcomes for those individuals with intellectual and developmental
6 disabilities.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 40.14
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The division of archives and records management, working with
10 the University of Washington institute on human development and
11 disability, and in consultation with the department of social and
12 health services and the office of archaeology and historic
13 preservation, shall organize, catalogue, and store historical
14 documents and artifacts identified at Lakeland Village, a state-
15 operated facility. Historical documents and artifacts may include but
16 are not limited to medical records, letters, images, films, and
17 artifacts of past residents with intellectual or developmental
18 disabilities at Lakeland Village.

19 (2) Working in consultation with the division, the University of
20 Washington shall:

21 (a) Identify all the records and artifacts that are available and
22 at risk of destruction;

23 (b) Assess the condition of the records and artifacts and level
24 of preservation required, including but not limited to the age of the
25 record, the material used, and environmental conditions in which the
26 items have been stored; and

27 (c) Develop a preservation plan outlining the steps that will be
28 taken to preserve the records and artifacts. This includes how the
29 records will be stored, where they will be stored, how they will be
30 handled and transported, how they will be restored if they are in
31 danger of falling into disrepair, dysfunction, or destruction, and
32 how they will be digitized. The preservation plan shall include a
33 timeline for the preservation work and an overall budget for the
34 work.

35 (3) Based on the plan approved by the division, records will be
36 transported and stored in preparation for cataloging and
37 digitization. Records must then be cataloged, digitized, and
38 transferred to archival microfilm for long-term access.

1 (4) All records and artifacts must undergo an initial historic
2 review and documentation of materials.

3 (5) The plan described in this section must also include future
4 plans for public access for historical and educational purposes.

5 (6) Indirect costs to the University of Washington for this
6 project are limited to 15 percent.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
8 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
9 provided by June 30, 2024, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
10 act is null and void.

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