
SENATE BILL 5393

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Robinson, Nobles, and C. Wilson; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/21/25. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to closing the Yakima Valley school and Rainier
2 school; amending RCW 71A.20.020, 28A.190.005, 72.01.050, and
3 72.05.010; adding a new section to chapter 71A.20 RCW; creating new
4 sections; repealing RCW 71A.20.180; providing an effective date; and
5 declaring an emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

8 (1) The system of services for people with intellectual and
9 developmental disabilities should provide a balanced range of health,
10 social, and supportive services at home or in other residential
11 settings. The receipt of services should be coordinated so as to
12 minimize administrative cost and service duplication, and eliminate
13 unnecessarily complex system organization.

14 (2) Residential habilitation centers exist to provide a safe
15 place to live and appropriate supports to learn the skills needed to
16 live with as much self-determination and independence as possible,
17 including moving to a community-based setting if so desired.

18 (3) Residential habilitation centers should promote individual
19 dignity, autonomy, and a home-like environment.

20 (4) The state has made efforts towards shrinking the residential
21 habilitation centers, particularly at Rainier school and Yakima

1 Valley school, in recent years. The department of social and health
2 services has thoughtfully and successfully transitioned many of the
3 residents at residential habilitation centers into smaller supported
4 settings. The legislature finds that this has been successful because
5 of intentional efforts to honor personal choice, deliberate and
6 transparent work with residents, families, and staff, and expanding
7 supported living and state-operated living alternative settings. It
8 has also been successful when the state makes these transitions over
9 specific and sensible periods of time to allow for safe transition to
10 individually tailored supports.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.20
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) By June 30, 2027, the department shall close Yakima Valley
14 school and Rainier school and relocate current residents consistent
15 with the requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

16 (2) Upon the effective date of this section, the department shall
17 not permit any new admission to Yakima Valley school or Rainier
18 school unless such admission is limited to the provision of short-
19 term respite or crisis stabilization services.

20 (3) Within available funds, the department:

21 (a) Shall provide state-operated living alternatives to
22 residential habilitation center residents transitioning to the
23 community under chapter . . . , Laws of 2025 (this act) who prefer a
24 state-operated community residential service;

25 (b) May use existing supported living program capacity in the
26 community for former residential habilitation center residents who
27 prefer and choose a supported living program;

28 (c) Shall provide space at other residential habilitation centers
29 to those who prefer a residential habilitation center setting; and

30 (d) Shall offer residential habilitation center employees
31 opportunities to work in state-operated living alternatives and other
32 state facilities and programs.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 71A.20.020 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 s 5 are each
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
36 following residential habilitation centers are permanently
37 established to provide services to persons with developmental
38 disabilities: Lakeland Village, located at Medical Lake, Spokane

1 county; (~~Rainier School, located at Buckley, Pierce county; Yakima~~
2 ~~Valley School, located at Selah, Yakima county;~~) and Fircrest
3 School, located at Seattle, King county.

4 (2) The Yakima Valley School, located at Selah, Yakima county,
5 shall cease to operate as a residential habilitation center (~~when~~
6 ~~the conditions in RCW 71A.20.180(2)(b) are met~~) by June 30, 2027.

7 (3) The Rainier school, located at Buckley, Pierce county shall
8 cease to operate as a residential habilitation center by June 30,
9 2027.

10 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.190.005 and 2021 c 164 s 3 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
13 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Institutional education facility" means residential
15 habilitation and child study and treatment centers operated by the
16 department of social and health services, state long-term juvenile
17 institutions operated by the department of children, youth, and
18 families, state-operated community facilities, county juvenile
19 detention centers, and facilities of the department of corrections
20 that incarcerate juveniles committed as adults.

21 (2) "Institutional education program" means the program of
22 education that is provided to youth in institutional education
23 facilities as a mandatory component of the program of basic education
24 under RCW 28A.150.200.

25 (3) "Institutional education provider" or "provider" means a
26 school district, educational service district, or other entity
27 providing education services to youth in an institutional education
28 facility.

29 (4) "Postresident youth" means a person who is under the age of
30 21 and a former resident of an institutional education facility. A
31 postresident youth may be a public school student or a person who is
32 eligible to be a public school student but who is not enrolled in a
33 school or otherwise receiving basic education services.

34 (5) "Residential school" means the following institutional
35 education facilities: Green Hill school, Naselle Youth Camp, Echo
36 Glen, Lakeland Village, (~~Rainier school, Yakima Valley school,~~)
37 Fircrest school, the Child Study and Treatment Center and Secondary
38 School of western state hospital, and other schools, camps, and
39 centers established by the department of social and health services

1 or the department of children, youth, and families for the diagnosis,
2 confinement, and rehabilitation of juveniles committed by the courts
3 or for the care and treatment of persons who are exceptional in their
4 needs by reason of mental or physical deficiency. "Residential
5 school" does not include the state schools for the blind, the
6 Washington state center for childhood deafness and hearing loss, or
7 adult correctional institutions.

8 (6) "School district" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.315.025
9 and includes any educational service district that has entered into
10 an agreement to provide a program of education for residents at an
11 institutional education facility on behalf of the school district as
12 a cooperative service program pursuant to RCW 28A.310.180.

13 (7) "Youth" means a person who is under the age of 21 who is a
14 resident of an institutional education facility. A youth may be a
15 public school student or a person who is eligible to be a public
16 school student but who is not enrolled in a school or otherwise
17 receiving basic education services.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 72.01.050 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 628 are each
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (1) The secretary of social and health services shall have full
21 power to manage and govern the following public institutions: The
22 western state hospital, the eastern state hospital, the northern
23 state hospital, Lakeland Village, (~~the Rainier school,~~) and such
24 other institutions as authorized by law, subject only to the
25 limitations contained in laws relating to the management of such
26 institutions.

27 (2) The secretary of corrections shall have full power to manage,
28 govern, and name all state correctional facilities, subject only to
29 the limitations contained in laws relating to the management of such
30 institutions.

31 (3) If any state correctional facility is fully or partially
32 destroyed by natural causes or otherwise, the secretary of
33 corrections may, with the approval of the governor, provide for the
34 establishment and operation of additional residential correctional
35 facilities to place those inmates displaced by such destruction.
36 However, such additional facilities may not be established if there
37 are existing residential correctional facilities to which all of the
38 displaced inmates can be appropriately placed. The establishment and
39 operation of any additional facility shall be on a temporary basis,

1 and the facility may not be operated beyond July 1 of the year
2 following the year in which it was partially or fully destroyed.

3 (4) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and
4 families shall have full power to manage and govern Echo Glen, the
5 Green Hill school, and such other institutions as authorized by law,
6 subject only to the limitations contained in laws relating to the
7 management of such institutions.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 72.05.010 and 2020 c 274 s 54 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The purposes of this section and RCW (~~72.05.010~~) 72.05.020
11 through 72.05.210 are: To provide for every child with behavior
12 problems, persons with disabilities, and hearing and visually
13 impaired children, within the purview of this section and RCW
14 (~~72.05.010~~) 72.05.020 through 72.05.210, as now or hereafter
15 amended, such care, guidance and instruction, control and treatment
16 as will best serve the welfare of the child or person and society; to
17 insure nonpolitical and qualified operation, supervision, management,
18 and control of the Green Hill school, the Naselle Youth Camp, Echo
19 Glen, Lakeland Village, (~~Rainier school, the Yakima Valley school,~~)
20 Fircrest school, the Child Study and Treatment Center and Secondary
21 School of western state hospital, and like residential state schools,
22 camps, and centers hereafter established; and to provide for the
23 persons committed or admitted to those schools that type of care,
24 instruction, and treatment most likely to accomplish their
25 rehabilitation and restoration to normal citizenship.

26 (2) To further such purposes, Green Hill School, Echo Glen,
27 Naselle Youth Camp, and such other juvenile rehabilitation
28 facilities, as may hereafter be established, are placed under the
29 department of children, youth, and families; Lakeland Village,
30 (~~Rainier school, the Yakima Valley school,~~) Fircrest school, the
31 Child Study and Treatment Center and Secondary School of western
32 state hospital, and like residential state schools, camps, and
33 centers, hereafter established, are placed under the department of
34 social and health services.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RCW 71A.20.180 (Closure of Yakima Valley
36 School—Department duties—Continuation of services) and 2017 3rd
37 sp.s. c 19 s 1 & 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 s 6 are each repealed.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
2 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
3 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any part of this act is found to be in
6 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
7 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
8 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
9 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
10 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application
11 to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet
12 federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of
13 federal funds by the state.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Except for sections 3 through 6 of this
15 act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the
16 public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government
17 and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 3 through 6 of this act take
19 effect June 30, 2027.

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