
HOUSE BILL 1571

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Ban, Green, Fey, Appleton, and Pollet

Read first time 01/31/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving safety for patients and staff at state
2 hospitals; and adding a new section to chapter 72.23 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.23 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that risk of assault at Washington's
7 state hospitals creates a dangerous environment for state hospital
8 patients and staff and undermines therapeutic treatment goals.

9 (2) By December 1, 2013, the department shall develop a plan to
10 enhance the safety of state hospital patients and staff from assault.
11 This plan must be shared with the executive and appropriate committees
12 of the legislature. At a minimum, this plan must include consideration
13 of the following elements:

14 (a) Development of increased security areas at the state hospitals
15 for effective monitoring and control of patients who present a high
16 threat of violence where such patients may be more effectively
17 monitored and controlled;

18 (b) Adoption of safety planning procedures following incidents of

1 intentional assault which ensure that meaningful and perceptible
2 consequences follow from such intentional behavior;

3 (c) Increased empowerment for state hospital security personnel,
4 including heightening the presence of security on state hospital wards
5 that house dangerous individuals;

6 (d) An assessment of training enhancements that could increase
7 safety from assault, including exploration of alternate security
8 models; and

9 (e) An estimate of the total cost of assault at the state
10 hospitals, combined with a plan to measure the cost savings realized by
11 decreasing incidents of assault and capturing savings for investment in
12 further safety enhancements.

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