

ESSB 5693 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-2871.1/22) **1158**

By Representative Dent

NOT ADOPTED 02/26/2022

1 On page 364, line 8, increase the general fund-state appropriation
2 for fiscal year 2023 by \$91,000

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4 On page 365, line 28, correct the total.

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6 On page 385, after line 22, insert the following:

7 "(83) (a) \$91,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for
8 fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the department to convene a
9 work group to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues
10 in Washington communities. The membership of the work group shall
11 emphasize individuals with actual, practical experience dealing with
12 the behavioral health system and shall include:

13 (i) Individuals who have received behavioral health services in a
14 variety settings and circumstances throughout the behavioral health
15 system;

16 (ii) Family members of individuals who have received behavioral
17 health services;

18 (iii) Behavioral health treatment providers with experience
19 providing behavioral health services in various settings, including
20 crisis behavioral health services. Providers serving on the work group
21 may not represent, or be employed by, any organizations or interest
22 groups representing the interests of health care providers or
23 behavioral health stakeholders;

24 (iv) Tribal representatives with experience providing or receiving
25 behavioral health services from tribal health departments;

26 (v) Members of the clergy;

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1 (vi) Law enforcement officers with training and experience in
2 responding to individuals with behavioral health conditions or who are
3 undergoing behavioral health crises;
4 (vii) Behavioral health advocates; and
5 (viii) Any other individuals with experience in the behavioral
6 health system, as deemed appropriate by the department.
7 (b) The work group shall, at a minimum, discuss:
8 (i) Factors leading to increased demand for behavioral health
9 services in Washington;
10 (ii) Barriers to addressing unmet need and any gaps in the
11 behavioral health system;
12 (iii) The effectiveness of the state's integrated care initiative
13 regarding access for the seriously mentally ill, reductions in
14 hospitalization and institutionalization, improvements in community-
15 based care, and support for an effective network of community-based
16 care providers for the seriously mentally ill; and
17 (iv) Suggestions for improving the behavioral health system,
18 including methods to address behavioral health workforce shortages.
19 (c) The work group shall submit to the governor and the
20 legislature a progress report by December 15, 2022, and its findings
21 and recommendations by June 30, 2023."

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EFFECT: Directs the Department of Health to convene a work group to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in Washington communities. Requires the members of the work group to be representative of individuals with actual, practical experience dealing with the behavioral health system, and requires the membership to include individuals who have received behavioral health services, behavioral health service providers, tribal representatives, law enforcement officers, and advocates. Requires the work group to present a progress report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 15, 2022, and its findings and recommendations by June 30, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increases General Fund - State by \$91,000.

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