

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5015

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As Passed Senate, March 3, 1999

**Title:** An act relating to technical, clarifying, nonsubstantive amendments to community mental health services.

**Brief Description:** Changing provisions relating to community mental health services.

**Sponsors:** Senators Long, Hargrove, Winsley and Costa.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 1/19/99, 2/2/99 [DP].  
Passed Senate, 3/3/99, 46-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Chair; Costa, Vice Chair; Franklin, Kohl-Welles, Long, Patterson, Sheahan and Stevens.

**Staff:** Joan K. Mell (786-7447)

**Background:** The RCW chapter on community mental health contains outdated statutory language, including cross references to repealed provisions. Terms defined in the statute contained two definitions: one definition for use during a specified time period and another definition for use at a specified date in the future. The specified future date has come and gone; therefore, the older definition serves no purpose. Staff reviewed the chapter, eliminating unnecessary language. Agencies received copies of the changes for comment.

**Summary of Bill:** Technical changes, not substantive, are made to the Community Mental Health Services Act. The intent section clarifies the bill's technical purpose. Dated information is deleted. Cross references are corrected. Some substantive provisions previously contained in a definition were removed and added as new sections.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** None.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The technical changes are needed and are appropriate.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Jean Wessman, Washington State Association of Counties.