

6487-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Long, Hargrove, Sheahan and Winsley; by request of Department of Social and Health Services and Department of Corrections)

Brief Description: Providing for the release of mental health information under certain circumstances.

**SB 6487-S.E - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares an intent to enhance and facilitate the ability of the department of corrections to carry out its responsibility of planning and ensuring community protection with respect to persons subject to sentencing under chapter 9.94A RCW by authorizing access to and release or disclosure of necessary information related to mental health services. This includes accessing and releasing or disclosing information of persons who received mental health services as a minor.

Does not intend to readdress access to information and records regarding continuity of care.

Recognizes that persons with mental illness have a right to the confidentiality of information related to mental health services, including the fact of their receiving such services, unless there is a state interest that supersedes this right. It is the intent of the legislature to balance that right of the individual with the state interest to enhance public safety.