
SENATE BILL 5947

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Frockt, Bailey, Parlette, Rivers, Baumgartner, Dammeier, Sheldon, Braun, Angel, Warnick, King, and Fain

Read first time 02/12/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a training program in integrated care
2 psychiatry; adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Behavioral health disorders such as
6 depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders are major drivers of
7 disability and health care costs, but only three in ten adults living
8 with a mental health or substance use disorder in the state of
9 Washington receive evidence-based care from a mental health
10 specialist such as a psychiatrist or a psychologist. Most counties do
11 not have a single practicing psychiatrist. There is strong evidence
12 that effective integration of behavioral health services into primary
13 care can help achieve the triple aim of health care reform, improved
14 access to care, better outcomes, and lower health care costs. In such
15 evidence-based integrated care programs, primary care providers are
16 supported by trained consulting psychiatrists and other mental health
17 care providers. This effectively leverages the existing psychiatry
18 workforce to improve the reach and the effectiveness of behavioral
19 health services at a population level.

20 (2) It is the intent of the training program in integrated care
21 psychiatry in this act to train approximately fifteen to twenty

1 psychiatrists each year, substantially expanding the workforce of
2 psychiatric consultants in Washington and improving access to
3 evidence-based mental health care for patients seen in school-based
4 health centers, primary care clinics, and correctional and other
5 health care settings. When fully implemented, this workforce of
6 psychiatric consultants will be able to support primary care
7 providers throughout the state.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The Washington state department of health and the department
11 of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Washington
12 shall develop and operate a training program in integrated care
13 psychiatry. The training program must:

14 (a) Offer a specialized track in integrated behavioral health
15 care to five University of Washington psychiatry residents in their
16 third and fourth years of their four-year residency training each
17 year, to include a minimum of twelve months of training in settings
18 where integrated behavioral health services are provided under the
19 supervision of experienced psychiatric consultants;

20 (b) Establish a one-year clinical fellowship program, for
21 psychiatrists who seek additional specialty training in integrated
22 care, with a focus on effective consultation to primary care
23 providers or on improving the medical care of patients with severe
24 and persistent mental illness, offered annually to five psychiatrists
25 who have already completed child or adult psychiatry residencies; and

26 (c) Annually offer continuing medical education courses and
27 supervision in evidence-based integrated care to up to ten trained,
28 board eligible or board certified psychiatrists who are interested in
29 providing evidence-based integrated care in the state of Washington,
30 with enrollment preference given to psychiatrists practicing in
31 shortage areas in Washington.

32 (2) The University of Washington may partner with nursing and
33 social work programs at the University of Washington, Washington
34 State University, and Eastern Washington University in implementing
35 the training program in this section.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 The department shall work with the department of psychiatry and
2 behavioral sciences at the University of Washington to develop and
3 operate a training program in integrated care psychiatry created in
4 section 2 of this act.

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