
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2671

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Wilcox, Jenkins, Dye, Orwall, Schmick, Cody, DeBolt, Walsh, Maycumber, Griffey, Barkis, Haler, Buys, Muri, Condotta, Robinson, Doglio, Macri, Stanford, and Irwin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the behavioral health of people in
2 the agricultural industry; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW;
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
6 agricultural industry is an integral part of Washington's economy and
7 sense of common identity, and that the behavioral health of workers
8 in the industry and their family members is a statewide concern.

9 (2) Several factors related to the agricultural industry may
10 affect the behavioral health of workers in the agricultural industry,
11 including job-related isolation and demands, stressful work
12 environments, the heightened potential for financial losses, lack of
13 access to behavioral health services, and barriers to or
14 unwillingness to seek mental health services.

15 (3) A 2016 report from the federal centers for disease control
16 and prevention studied suicide data from the year 2012 and found that
17 workers in the farming, fishing, and forestry industries had the
18 highest rate of suicide, eighty-four and one-half suicides per one
19 hundred thousand workers, among the occupational groups that it
20 studied.

1 (4) The legislature finds that there is an urgent need to develop
2 resources and interventions specifically targeted to helping workers
3 in the agricultural industry and their family members manage their
4 behavioral health needs.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The state office of rural health
6 shall convene a task force on behavioral health and suicide
7 prevention in the agricultural industry with members as provided in
8 this subsection.

9 (i) The secretary of health, or the secretary's designee;

10 (ii) The secretary of the department of agriculture, or the
11 secretary's designee;

12 (iii) The secretary of the department of social and health
13 services, or the secretary's designee;

14 (iv) A representative of Washington State University;

15 (v) A representative of an association that represents counties;

16 (vi) One representative each from two different associations
17 representing both farm and ranch families in Washington;

18 (vii) A representative of the commission on Hispanic affairs
19 established in chapter 43.115 RCW;

20 (viii) A representative of the dairy products commission
21 established in chapter 15.44 RCW;

22 (ix) A representative of the grain commission established in
23 chapter 15.115 RCW;

24 (x) A representative of the tree fruit research commission
25 established in chapter 15.26 RCW;

26 (xi) A representative of an association representing rural health
27 clinics;

28 (xii) A representative of an association representing federally
29 qualified health centers;

30 (xiii) A representative of an association representing community
31 behavioral health agencies;

32 (xiv) Two representatives of associations representing mental
33 health providers; and

34 (xv) One representative of an association representing substance
35 use disorder treatment providers.

36 (b) The task force shall select cochairs, one of which shall be
37 from the department and the other shall be either representative from
38 (a)(vi) of this subsection.

39 (2) The task force shall review the following issues:

1 (a) Data related to the behavioral health status of persons
2 associated with the agricultural industry, including suicide rates,
3 substance use rates, availability of behavioral health services, and
4 utilization of behavioral health services;

5 (b) Factors unique to the agricultural industry that affect the
6 behavioral health of persons working in the industry, including
7 factors affecting suicide rates;

8 (c) Components that should be addressed in the behavioral health
9 and suicide prevention pilot program established in section 3 of this
10 act; and

11 (d) Options to improve the behavioral health status of and reduce
12 suicide risk among agricultural workers and their families, including
13 individual focused and community focused strategies.

14 (3) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
15 department.

16 (4) Task force members are not entitled to reimbursement for
17 travel expenses if they are participating on behalf of an employer,
18 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
19 other members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

20 (5) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
21 to the governor and the committees of the legislature with
22 jurisdiction over health care issues by December 1, 2018.

23 (6) This section expires July 1, 2019.

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

26 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
27 specific purpose, the department shall establish a pilot program to
28 support behavioral health improvement and suicide prevention efforts
29 for members of the agricultural industry workforce. By March 1, 2019,
30 the pilot program shall be established in two counties that are
31 reliant on the agricultural industry. One county shall be east of the
32 Cascade crest and the other county shall be west of the Cascade
33 crest.

34 (2) When implementing the pilot program, the department shall
35 consider the report of the task force on behavioral health and
36 suicide prevention in the agricultural industry established in
37 section 2 of this act.

38 (3) In implementing the pilot program, the department shall
39 contract with an entity that has behavioral health and suicide

1 prevention expertise to develop a free resource for workers in the
2 agricultural industry. The contracting entity must be responsible for
3 constructing and hosting the free resource and linking the free
4 resource to the web sites of the department, the department of
5 agriculture, and other relevant stakeholders.

6 (4) At a minimum, the free resource must:

7 (a) Be made publicly available through a web-based portal or a
8 telephone support line;

9 (b) Provide a resource to train agricultural industry management,
10 workers, and their family members in suicide risk recognition and
11 referral skills;

12 (c) Provide a resource to build capacity within the agricultural
13 industry to train individuals to deliver training in person;

14 (d) Contain model crisis protocols that address behavioral health
15 crisis and suicide risk identification, intervention, reentry, and
16 postvention;

17 (e) Contain model marketing materials and messages that promote
18 behavioral health in the agricultural industry; and

19 (f) Be made available in English and Spanish.

20 (5) A preliminary report shall be made to the legislature on the
21 elements and implementation of the pilot program by December 1, 2019.
22 A final report containing information about results of the pilot
23 program and recommendations for improving the pilot program and
24 expanding its availability to other counties shall be made to the
25 legislature by December 1, 2020.

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