
SENATE BILL 6391

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senator Miloscia

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a comprehensive opioid treatment
2 oversight system; adding new sections to chapter 43.70 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is an
6 opioid epidemic and it is in the best interests of the people of the
7 state of Washington to break down funding and treatment silos to
8 ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals, families, and
9 communities. The legislature further finds there is a lack of
10 coordination over opioid misuse disorder resources, treatments, and
11 services. It is the intent of the legislature to improve the
12 effectiveness and efficiency of treatment, which begins with
13 identifying ineffective intervention and treatment efforts and ends
14 with the successful outcome of abstinence. For this reason, the
15 legislature intends to create a comprehensive drug treatment
16 oversight system and to establish a drug czar to assist with
17 coordination of ongoing and future prevention efforts, making
18 recommendations for improved coordination of efforts by entities with
19 overlapping service areas, and sharing of best practices. The
20 legislature further intends for the drug czar to establish an opioid

1 treatment information system to track the performance of individuals
2 and treatments in our drug treatment system.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The governor shall appoint a drug czar within the department
6 to coordinate state and local opioid misuse and overdose prevention
7 efforts in the state, establish an opioid treatment information
8 system, and develop recommendations for increasing treatment on-
9 demand services.

10 (a) By December 31, 2018, the drug czar, in collaboration with
11 the governor's office, shall create a five year state opioid
12 prevention plan for addressing opioid misuse and overdose prevention
13 efforts. The state opioid prevention plan shall include, but is not
14 limited to:

- 15 (i) An outline of existing prevention efforts in the state;
16 (ii) A catalogue of current funding levels and sources;
17 (iii) A model for the drug czar to actively coordinate ongoing
18 and future prevention efforts through operation and utilization of
19 the opioid treatment information system established in section 3 of
20 this act;
21 (iv) Recommendations for better coordinating efforts by entities
22 with overlapping service areas; and
23 (v) A model for actively sharing best practices.

24 (b) By December 31, 2018, the drug czar shall provide the five
25 year state opioid prevention plan to the appropriate fiscal and
26 policy committees of the legislature.

27 (3) The drug czar shall semiannually confer representatives of:

- 28 (a) The governor's office;
29 (b) The department;
30 (c) The department of social and health services;
31 (d) The health care authority;
32 (e) The state board of health;
33 (f) Local boards of health;
34 (g) Accountable communities of health; and
35 (h) Any other local, state, or national entities undertaking
36 opioid misuse or overdose prevention efforts.

37 (4) Beginning December 31, 2019, and each December 31st
38 thereafter, the drug czar must provide an opioid misuse and overdose

1 prevention report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of
2 the legislature, to include:

3 (a) Information about new and ongoing efforts at the local,
4 state, and federal levels;

5 (b) Any best practices that were created or shared in the
6 preceding year;

7 (c) Data on treatment programs and overdose rates, aggregated
8 from the opioid treatment information system established in section 3
9 of this act;

10 (d) Recommendations on how to expand treatment to on-demand
11 services; and

12 (e) Recommendations on how to better coordinate, expand, or fund
13 specific organizations, programs, or services.

14 (5) The drug czar may hire additional staff as necessary to
15 implement this section.

16 (6) The drug czar serves a term of five years. The successors of
17 a drug czar initially appointed must be appointed by the governor to
18 serve for a term of five years except that any person appointed to
19 fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of any term shall be
20 appointed only for the remainder of the term. The drug czar shall
21 serve until a successor is appointed.

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

24 (1) The drug czar shall implement an opioid treatment information
25 system for the ongoing collection and updates of information about
26 opioid use, misuse, and treatment in the state.

27 (2) Information about opioid use, misuse, and treatment shall
28 come from the department, the health care authority, providers, and
29 city and county governments. Data shall be collected in real-time on
30 an ongoing basis following initiation of treatment.

31 (3) The drug czar must establish standards for either obtaining
32 informed consent or keeping individual identifying information
33 confidential, in compliance with state and federal health care
34 information privacy requirements.

35 (4) The opioid treatment information system must serve as an
36 online information and tracking system to enable the state apple
37 health program, city and county governments, and providers to connect
38 individuals seeking treatment for opioid use and misuse and analyze
39 the effectiveness and efficiency of treatment.

1 (5) The information in the opioid treatment information system
2 will also provide the drug czar with the information to consolidate
3 and analyze data about the extent and nature of opioid use, misuse,
4 and treatment in Washington state, giving emphasis to information
5 about the effectiveness and efficiency of treatment from
6 identification of use until abstinence.

7 (6) The system may be merged with other data gathering and
8 reporting systems and must:

9 (a) Protect the right of privacy of individuals;

10 (b) Provide for consultation and collaboration with all relevant
11 state agencies including the health care authority, experts, and
12 community organizations involved in the delivery of opioid use and
13 misuse treatment services; and

14 (c) Include related information held or gathered by other state
15 agencies.

16 (7) For purposes of this section, "drug czar" means the drug czar
17 established in section 2 of this act.

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