
HOUSE BILL 1920

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Mosbrucker, Cody, Peterson, Caldier, Dye, and Tharinger

Read first time 02/06/19. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing patient anxiety; adding a new
2 section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in 2017 one
5 thousand two hundred ninety-two Washingtonians died by suicide. The
6 legislature finds that many individuals who attempt suicide or die by
7 suicide have an undiagnosed mental health condition. The legislature
8 recognizes that a person's unassessed mental health or anxiety level
9 can lead to severe medical emergencies or even death. The legislature
10 further recognizes that health care professionals are in a unique
11 position to notice depression, anxiety, and suicide warning signs in
12 their patients and intervene early.

13 Therefore, the legislature intends to increase screening for
14 anxiety to allow for possible early intervention.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 Beginning January 1, 2020, a patient's anxiety level must be
18 assessed by a health care provider upon the patient's intake at a
19 hospital, urgent care center, or primary care clinic.

1 (1) Patients that have been admitted to the hospital must be
2 assessed at regular intervals as necessary based on the patient's
3 condition and at the patient's discharge from the hospital.

4 (2) The health care provider must use either the generalized
5 anxiety disorder 2-item or generalized anxiety disorder 7-item
6 assessment tool to assess the patient's anxiety.

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