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**SENATE BILL 6648**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Zeiger, Wagoner, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/29/20. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot program to create a safe  
2 station for persons who need substance use disorder treatment; adding  
3 a new section to chapter 43.31 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
4 70.385 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the safe  
7 station program is a program that started with successful model  
8 programs in the cities of Manchester and Nashua, New Hampshire and  
9 has spread throughout New England, including a widespread presence in  
10 Rhode Island. Participating fire departments are designated as safe  
11 stations and provide twenty-four hour, seven days a week drop-in  
12 services for persons who need help related to a substance use  
13 disorder. Basic screening is provided by emergency medical  
14 technicians who are trained to provide a welcoming environment and  
15 connect persons to treatment support and services, including  
16 transportation to acute medical services when warranted. Safe spaces  
17 break down barriers for individuals and allow them to speak and  
18 interact with supportive peers in recovery. Safe stations provide an  
19 alternative to emergency rooms and can serve as a diversion for  
20 people who need help but are not at the point of crisis.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.31  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The department of commerce shall manage a grant program to  
4    award funding to a fire department in the state of Washington to  
5    implement a safe station pilot program based on the New England  
6    model.

7        (2) Certified substance use disorder peer specialists may be  
8    employed in a safe station pilot program under this section.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 70.385  
10    RCW to read as follows:

11        Certified substance use disorder peer counselors may be employed  
12    in the pilot program established under section 2 of this act.

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