

2SSB 5577 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Judiciary

NOT CONSIDERED 01/05/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 11.92  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an  
6 incapacitated person retains the right to associate with persons of  
7 the incapacitated person's choosing. This right includes, but is not  
8 limited to, the right to freely communicate and interact with other  
9 persons, whether through in-person visits, telephone calls,  
10 electronic communication, personal mail, or other means. If the  
11 incapacitated person is unable to express consent for communication,  
12 visitation, or interaction with another person, or is otherwise  
13 unable to make a decision regarding association with another person,  
14 a guardian of the incapacitated person, whether full or limited,  
15 must:

16 (a) Personally inform the incapacitated person of the decision  
17 under consideration, using plain language, in a manner calculated to  
18 maximize the understanding of the incapacitated person;

19 (b) Maximize the incapacitated person's participation in the  
20 decision-making process to the greatest extent possible, consistent  
21 with the incapacitated person's abilities; and

22 (c) Give substantial weight to the incapacitated person's  
23 preferences, both expressed and historical.

24 (2) A guardian or limited guardian may not restrict an  
25 incapacitated person's right to communicate, visit, interact, or  
26 otherwise associate with persons of the incapacitated person's  
27 choosing, unless:

28 (a) The restriction is specifically authorized by the  
29 guardianship court in the court order establishing or modifying the  
30 guardianship or limited guardianship under chapter 11.88 RCW;

1 (b) The restriction is pursuant to a protection order issued  
2 under chapter 74.34 RCW, chapter 26.50 RCW, or other law, that limits  
3 contact between the incapacitated person and other persons; or

4 (c)(i) The guardian or limited guardian has good cause to believe  
5 that there is an immediate need to restrict an incapacitated person's  
6 right to communicate, visit, interact, or otherwise associate with  
7 persons of the incapacitated person's choosing in order to protect  
8 the incapacitated person from abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
9 financial exploitation, as those terms are defined in RCW 74.34.020,  
10 or to protect the incapacitated person from activities that  
11 unnecessarily impose significant distress on the incapacitated  
12 person; and

13 (ii) Within fourteen calendar days of imposing the restriction  
14 under (c)(i) of this subsection, the guardian or limited guardian  
15 files a petition for a protection order under chapter 74.34 RCW. The  
16 immediate need restriction may remain in place until the court has  
17 heard and issued an order or decision on the petition.

18 (3) A protection order under chapter 74.34 RCW issued to protect  
19 an incapacitated person as described in subsection (2)(c)(ii) of this  
20 section:

21 (a) Must include written findings of fact and conclusions of law;

22 (b) May not be more restrictive than necessary to protect the  
23 incapacitated person from abuse, neglect, abandonment, or financial  
24 exploitation as those terms are defined in RCW 74.34.020; and

25 (c) May not deny communication, visitation, interaction, or other  
26 association between the incapacitated person and another person  
27 unless the court finds that placing reasonable time, place, or manner  
28 restrictions is unlikely to sufficiently protect the incapacitated  
29 person from abuse, neglect, abandonment, or financial exploitation as  
30 those terms are defined in RCW 74.34.020.

31 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.34.020 and 2015 c 268 s 1 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
34 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

35 (1) "Abandonment" means action or inaction by a person or entity  
36 with a duty of care for a vulnerable adult that leaves the vulnerable  
37 person without the means or ability to obtain necessary food,  
38 clothing, shelter, or health care.

1 (2) "Abuse" means the willful action or inaction that inflicts  
2 injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment on a  
3 vulnerable adult. In instances of abuse of a vulnerable adult who is  
4 unable to express or demonstrate physical harm, pain, or mental  
5 anguish, the abuse is presumed to cause physical harm, pain, or  
6 mental anguish. Abuse includes sexual abuse, mental abuse, physical  
7 abuse, and personal exploitation of a vulnerable adult, and improper  
8 use of restraint against a vulnerable adult which have the following  
9 meanings:

10 (a) "Sexual abuse" means any form of nonconsensual sexual  
11 conduct, including but not limited to unwanted or inappropriate  
12 touching, rape, sodomy, sexual coercion, sexually explicit  
13 photographing, and sexual harassment. Sexual abuse also includes any  
14 sexual conduct between a staff person, who is not also a resident or  
15 client, of a facility or a staff person of a program authorized under  
16 chapter 71A.12 RCW, and a vulnerable adult living in that facility or  
17 receiving service from a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW,  
18 whether or not it is consensual.

19 (b) "Physical abuse" means the willful action of inflicting  
20 bodily injury or physical mistreatment. Physical abuse includes, but  
21 is not limited to, striking with or without an object, slapping,  
22 pinching, choking, kicking, shoving, or prodding.

23 (c) "Mental abuse" means a willful verbal or nonverbal action  
24 that threatens, humiliates, harasses, coerces, intimidates, isolates,  
25 unreasonably confines, or punishes a vulnerable adult. Mental abuse  
26 may include ridiculing, yelling, or swearing.

27 (d) "Personal exploitation" means an act of forcing, compelling,  
28 or exerting undue influence over a vulnerable adult causing the  
29 vulnerable adult to act in a way that is inconsistent with relevant  
30 past behavior, or causing the vulnerable adult to perform services  
31 for the benefit of another.

32 (e) "Improper use of restraint" means the inappropriate use of  
33 chemical, physical, or mechanical restraints for convenience or  
34 discipline or in a manner that: (i) Is inconsistent with federal or  
35 state licensing or certification requirements for facilities,  
36 hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW; (ii) is  
37 not medically authorized; or (iii) otherwise constitutes abuse under  
38 this section.

39 (3) "Chemical restraint" means the administration of any drug to  
40 manage a vulnerable adult's behavior in a way that reduces the safety

1 risk to the vulnerable adult or others, has the temporary effect of  
2 restricting the vulnerable adult's freedom of movement, and is not  
3 standard treatment for the vulnerable adult's medical or psychiatric  
4 condition.

5 (4) "Consent" means express written consent granted after the  
6 vulnerable adult or his or her legal representative has been fully  
7 informed of the nature of the services to be offered and that the  
8 receipt of services is voluntary.

9 (5) "Department" means the department of social and health  
10 services.

11 (6) "Facility" means a residence licensed or required to be  
12 licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, assisted living facilities; chapter  
13 18.51 RCW, nursing homes; chapter 70.128 RCW, adult family homes;  
14 chapter 72.36 RCW, soldiers' homes; or chapter 71A.20 RCW,  
15 residential habilitation centers; or any other facility licensed or  
16 certified by the department.

17 (7) "Financial exploitation" means the illegal or improper use,  
18 control over, or withholding of the property, income, resources, or  
19 trust funds of the vulnerable adult by any person or entity for any  
20 person's or entity's profit or advantage other than for the  
21 vulnerable adult's profit or advantage. "Financial exploitation"  
22 includes, but is not limited to:

23 (a) The use of deception, intimidation, or undue influence by a  
24 person or entity in a position of trust and confidence with a  
25 vulnerable adult to obtain or use the property, income, resources, or  
26 trust funds of the vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or  
27 entity other than the vulnerable adult;

28 (b) The breach of a fiduciary duty, including, but not limited  
29 to, the misuse of a power of attorney, trust, or a guardianship  
30 appointment, that results in the unauthorized appropriation, sale, or  
31 transfer of the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the  
32 vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or entity other than the  
33 vulnerable adult; or

34 (c) Obtaining or using a vulnerable adult's property, income,  
35 resources, or trust funds without lawful authority, by a person or  
36 entity who knows or clearly should know that the vulnerable adult  
37 lacks the capacity to consent to the release or use of his or her  
38 property, income, resources, or trust funds.

39 (8) "Financial institution" has the same meaning as in RCW  
40 30A.22.040 and 30A.22.041. For purposes of this chapter only,

1 "financial institution" also means a "broker-dealer" or "investment  
2 adviser" as defined in RCW 21.20.005.

3 (9) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41,  
4 71.12, or 72.23 RCW and any employee, agent, officer, director, or  
5 independent contractor thereof.

6 (10) "Incapacitated person" means a person who is at a  
7 significant risk of personal or financial harm under RCW 11.88.010(1)  
8 (a), (b), (c), or (d).

9 (11) "Individual provider" means a person under contract with the  
10 department to provide services in the home under chapter 74.09 or  
11 74.39A RCW.

12 (12) "Interested person" means a person who demonstrates to the  
13 court's satisfaction that the person is interested in the welfare of  
14 the vulnerable adult, that the person has a good faith belief that  
15 the court's intervention is necessary, and that the vulnerable adult  
16 is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or duress at the time  
17 the petition is filed, to protect his or her own interests.

18 (13)(a) "Isolate" or "isolation" means to restrict a vulnerable  
19 adult's ability to communicate, visit, interact, or otherwise  
20 associate with persons of his or her choosing. Isolation may be  
21 evidenced by acts including but not limited to:

22 (i) Acts that prevent a vulnerable adult from sending, making, or  
23 receiving his or her personal mail, electronic communications, or  
24 telephone calls; or

25 (ii) Acts that prevent or obstruct the vulnerable adult from  
26 meeting with others, such as telling a prospective visitor or caller  
27 that a vulnerable adult is not present, or does not wish contact,  
28 where the statement is contrary to the express wishes of the  
29 vulnerable adult.

30 (b) The term "isolate" or "isolation" may not be construed in a  
31 manner that prevents a guardian or limited guardian from performing  
32 his or her fiduciary obligations under chapter 11.92 RCW or prevents  
33 a hospital or facility from providing treatment consistent with the  
34 standard of care for delivery of health services.

35 (14) "Mandated reporter" is an employee of the department; law  
36 enforcement officer; social worker; professional school personnel;  
37 individual provider; an employee of a facility; an operator of a  
38 facility; an employee of a social service, welfare, mental health,  
39 adult day health, adult day care, home health, home care, or hospice

1 agency; county coroner or medical examiner; Christian Science  
2 practitioner; or health care provider subject to chapter 18.130 RCW.

3 ~~((14))~~ (15) "Mechanical restraint" means any device attached or  
4 adjacent to the vulnerable adult's body that he or she cannot easily  
5 remove that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to his or  
6 her body. "Mechanical restraint" does not include the use of devices,  
7 materials, or equipment that are (a) medically authorized, as  
8 required, and (b) used in a manner that is consistent with federal or  
9 state licensing or certification requirements for facilities,  
10 hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW.

11 ~~((15))~~ (16) "Neglect" means (a) a pattern of conduct or  
12 inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care that fails to  
13 provide the goods and services that maintain physical or mental  
14 health of a vulnerable adult, or that fails to avoid or prevent  
15 physical or mental harm or pain to a vulnerable adult; or (b) an act  
16 or omission by a person or entity with a duty of care that  
17 demonstrates a serious disregard of consequences of such a magnitude  
18 as to constitute a clear and present danger to the vulnerable adult's  
19 health, welfare, or safety, including but not limited to conduct  
20 prohibited under RCW 9A.42.100.

21 ~~((16))~~ (17) "Permissive reporter" means any person, including,  
22 but not limited to, an employee of a financial institution, attorney,  
23 or volunteer in a facility or program providing services for  
24 vulnerable adults.

25 ~~((17))~~ (18) "Physical restraint" means the application of  
26 physical force without the use of any device, for the purpose of  
27 restraining the free movement of a vulnerable adult's body. "Physical  
28 restraint" does not include (a) briefly holding without undue force a  
29 vulnerable adult in order to calm or comfort him or her, or (b)  
30 holding a vulnerable adult's hand to safely escort him or her from  
31 one area to another.

32 ~~((18))~~ (19) "Protective services" means any services provided  
33 by the department to a vulnerable adult with the consent of the  
34 vulnerable adult, or the legal representative of the vulnerable  
35 adult, who has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited,  
36 neglected, or in a state of self-neglect. These services may include,  
37 but are not limited to case management, social casework, home care,  
38 placement, arranging for medical evaluations, psychological  
39 evaluations, day care, or referral for legal assistance.

1       (~~(19)~~) (20) "Self-neglect" means the failure of a vulnerable  
2 adult, not living in a facility, to provide for himself or herself  
3 the goods and services necessary for the vulnerable adult's physical  
4 or mental health, and the absence of which impairs or threatens the  
5 vulnerable adult's well-being. This definition may include a  
6 vulnerable adult who is receiving services through home health,  
7 hospice, or a home care agency, or an individual provider when the  
8 neglect is not a result of inaction by that agency or individual  
9 provider.

10       (~~(20)~~) (21) "Social worker" means:

11       (a) A social worker as defined in RCW 18.320.010(2); or

12       (b) Anyone engaged in a professional capacity during the regular  
13 course of employment in encouraging or promoting the health, welfare,  
14 support, or education of vulnerable adults, or providing social  
15 services to vulnerable adults, whether in an individual capacity or  
16 as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or  
17 institution.

18       (~~(21)~~) (22) "Vulnerable adult" includes a person:

19       (a) Sixty years of age or older who has the functional, mental,  
20 or physical inability to care for himself or herself; or

21       (b) Found incapacitated under chapter 11.88 RCW; or

22       (c) Who has a developmental disability as defined under RCW  
23 71A.10.020; or

24       (d) Admitted to any facility; or

25       (e) Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care  
26 agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127  
27 RCW; or

28       (f) Receiving services from an individual provider; or

29       (g) Who self-directs his or her own care and receives services  
30 from a personal aide under chapter 74.39 RCW.

31       **Sec. 3.** RCW 11.92.043 and 2011 c 329 s 3 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33       (1) It (~~shall be~~) is the duty of the guardian or limited  
34 guardian of the person:

35       (~~(1)~~) (a) To file within three months after appointment a  
36 personal care plan for the incapacitated person, which (~~shall~~) must  
37 include (~~(a)~~) (i) an assessment of the incapacitated person's  
38 physical, mental, and emotional needs and of such person's ability to  
39 perform or assist in activities of daily living, and (~~(b)~~) (ii) the

1 guardian's specific plan for meeting the identified and emerging  
2 personal care needs of the incapacitated person.

3 ~~((2))~~ (b) To file annually or, where a guardian of the estate  
4 has been appointed, at the time an account is required to be filed  
5 under RCW 11.92.040, a report on the status of the incapacitated  
6 person, which shall include:

7 ~~((a))~~ (i) The address and name of the incapacitated person and  
8 all residential changes during the period;

9 ~~((b))~~ (ii) The services or programs ~~((which))~~ that the  
10 incapacitated person receives;

11 ~~((c))~~ (iii) The medical status of the incapacitated person;

12 ~~((d))~~ (iv) The mental status of the incapacitated person,  
13 including reports from mental health professionals on the status of  
14 the incapacitated person, if any exist;

15 ~~((e))~~ (v) Changes in the functional abilities of the  
16 incapacitated person;

17 ~~((f))~~ (vi) Activities of the guardian for the period;

18 ~~((g))~~ (vii) Any recommended changes in the scope of the  
19 authority of the guardian;

20 ~~((h))~~ (viii) The identity of any professionals who have  
21 assisted the incapacitated person during the period;

22 ~~((i)(i))~~ (ix)(A) Evidence of the guardian or limited guardian's  
23 successful completion of any standardized training video or web cast  
24 for guardians or limited guardians made available by the  
25 administrative office of the courts and the superior court when the  
26 guardian or limited guardian: ~~((A))~~ (I) Was appointed prior to July  
27 22, 2011; ~~((B))~~ (II) is not a certified professional guardian or  
28 financial institution authorized under RCW 11.88.020; and ~~((C))~~  
29 (III) has not previously completed the requirements of RCW  
30 11.88.020(3). The training video or web cast must be provided at no  
31 cost to the guardian or limited guardian.

32 ~~((ii))~~ (B) The superior court may, upon ~~((A))~~ petition by the  
33 guardian or limited guardian~~((r))~~ or ~~((B))~~ any other method as  
34 provided by local court rule:

35 (I) For good cause, waive this requirement for guardians  
36 appointed prior to July 22, 2011. Good cause ~~((shall))~~ requires  
37 evidence that the guardian already possesses the requisite knowledge  
38 to serve as a guardian without completing the training. When  
39 determining whether there is good cause to waive the training  
40 requirement, the court ~~((shall))~~ must consider, among other facts,



1 the length of time the guardian has been serving the incapacitated  
2 person; whether the guardian has timely filed all required reports  
3 with the court; whether the guardian is monitored by other state or  
4 local agencies; and whether there have been any allegations of abuse,  
5 neglect, or a breach of fiduciary duty against the guardian; or

6 (II) Extend the time period for completion of the training  
7 requirement for ninety days; and

8 ~~((+j))~~ (x) Evidence of the guardian or limited guardian's  
9 successful completion of any additional or updated training video or  
10 web cast offered by the administrative office of the courts and the  
11 superior court as is required at the discretion of the superior court  
12 unless the guardian or limited guardian is a certified professional  
13 guardian or financial institution authorized under RCW 11.88.020. The  
14 training video or web cast must be provided at no cost to the  
15 guardian or limited guardian.

16 ~~((+3))~~ (c) To report to the court within thirty days any  
17 substantial change in the incapacitated person's condition, or any  
18 changes in residence of the incapacitated person.

19 ~~((+4))~~ (d) To inform any person entitled to special notice of  
20 proceedings under RCW 11.92.150 and any other person designated by  
21 the incapacitated person as soon as possible, but in no case more  
22 than five days, after the incapacitated person:

23 (i) Makes a change in residence that is intended or likely to  
24 last more than fourteen calendar days;

25 (ii) Has been admitted to a medical facility for acute care in  
26 response to a life-threatening injury or medical condition that  
27 requires inpatient care;

28 (iii) Has been treated in an emergency room setting or kept for  
29 hospital observation for more than twenty-four hours; or

30 (iv) Dies, in which case the notification must be made in person,  
31 by telephone, or by certified mail.

32 (e) Consistent with the powers granted by the court, to care for  
33 and maintain the incapacitated person in the setting least  
34 restrictive to the incapacitated person's freedom and appropriate to  
35 the incapacitated person's personal care needs, assert the  
36 incapacitated person's rights and best interests, and if the  
37 incapacitated person is a minor or where otherwise appropriate, to  
38 see that the incapacitated person receives appropriate training and  
39 education and that the incapacitated person has the opportunity to  
40 learn a trade, occupation, or profession.

1       (~~(5)~~) (f) Consistent with RCW 7.70.065, to provide timely,  
2 informed consent for health care of the incapacitated person, except  
3 in the case of a limited guardian where such power is not expressly  
4 provided for in the order of appointment or subsequent modifying  
5 order as provided in RCW 11.88.125 as now or hereafter amended, the  
6 standby guardian or standby limited guardian may provide timely,  
7 informed consent to necessary medical procedures if the guardian or  
8 limited guardian cannot be located within four hours after the need  
9 for such consent arises. No guardian, limited guardian, or standby  
10 guardian may involuntarily commit for mental health treatment,  
11 observation, or evaluation an alleged incapacitated person who is  
12 unable or unwilling to give informed consent to such commitment  
13 unless the procedures for involuntary commitment set forth in chapter  
14 71.05 or 72.23 RCW are followed. Nothing in this section (~~shall~~)  
15 may be construed to allow a guardian, limited guardian, or standby  
16 guardian to consent to:

- 17       (~~(a)~~) (i) Therapy or other procedure which induces convulsion;  
18       (~~(b)~~) (ii) Surgery solely for the purpose of psychosurgery;  
19       (~~(c)~~) (iii) Other psychiatric or mental health procedures that  
20 restrict physical freedom of movement, or the rights set forth in RCW  
21 71.05.217.

22       (2) A guardian, limited guardian, or standby guardian who  
23 believes these procedures are necessary for the proper care and  
24 maintenance of the incapacitated person shall petition the court for  
25 an order unless the court has previously approved the procedure  
26 within the past thirty days. The court may order the procedure only  
27 after an attorney is appointed in accordance with RCW 11.88.045 if no  
28 attorney has previously appeared, notice is given, and a hearing is  
29 held in accordance with RCW 11.88.040.

30       NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 2.72 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32       The office of public guardianship, in partnership with the office  
33 of the state long-term care ombuds, must develop and offer training  
34 targeted to the legal community and persons working in long-term care  
35 facilities regarding the different kinds of decision-making  
36 authority, including guardianship, authority granted under power of  
37 attorney, and surrogate health care decision-making authority. The  
38 training must include, at a minimum, information regarding: The  
39 roles, duties, and responsibilities of different kinds of decision

1 makers; the scope of authority and limitations on authority with  
2 respect to different kinds of decision makers; and any relevant  
3 remedial measures provided in law for activity that exceeds the scope  
4 of decision-making authority.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
6 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
7 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
8 act is null and void."

9 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Aligns the provisions of 2SSB 5577 with the provisions of  
2SHB 1402 (unofficial companion), by:

(1) Including language in the opening paragraph setting forth the  
associational rights of an incapacitated person;

(2) Adding a provision to the section regarding immediate need  
restrictions that allows a guardian or limited guardian to restrict  
an incapacitated person's associational rights to protect the  
incapacitated person from activities that unnecessarily impose  
significant distress in the 14-day period before a Vulnerable Adult  
Protection Order must be filed;

(3) Providing that the immediate need restriction "may" (rather  
than "must") remain in place until the court has heard and issued an  
order or decision on the petition;

(4) Removing language added to the definition of "improper use of  
restraint" that referred to isolation;

(5) Modifying the definition of "isolate" or "isolation" to  
remove the intent, purpose, or state of mind requirements;

(6) Adding a provision to the definition of "isolate" or  
"isolation" stating that these terms may not be construed in a manner  
that prevents a hospital or facility from providing treatment  
consistent with the standard of care for delivery of health services;

(7) Distinguishing emergency and acute care in the section  
regarding special notice requirements;

(8) Removing a null and void clause from the training  
requirements section; and

(9) Adding a new section containing a null and void clause  
applicable to the entire bill, making it null and void if specific  
funding is not provided in the operating budget.

--- END ---