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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1819

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Dent, Senn, Kagi, Griffey, Johnson, and McBride)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to paperwork reduction in order to improve the  
2 availability of mental health services to protect children and  
3 families; adding new sections to chapter 71.24 RCW; creating new  
4 sections; providing contingent effective dates; and providing  
5 expiration dates.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a prioritized  
8 recommendation of the children's mental health work group as reported  
9 in December 2016 is to reduce burdensome and duplicative paperwork  
10 requirements for providers of children's mental health services.

11 The legislature further finds that these duplicative  
12 documentation requirements for providers have a negative impact on  
13 the adequacy of the network of mental health providers and create  
14 costly barriers to the efficient provision of services for children  
15 and their families.

16 Therefore, the legislature intends to require the department of  
17 social and health services to take steps to reduce paperwork and  
18 documentation requirements which are inefficient or duplicative for  
19 providers of children's mental health services.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 71.24  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The department must immediately perform a review of its  
4    rules, policies, and procedures related to the documentation  
5    requirements for behavioral health services with regard to individual  
6    initial assessments. The review must identify areas in which  
7    duplicative or inefficient documentation requirements can be  
8    eliminated or streamlined for providers. The department must complete  
9    the review by November 1, 2017. Upon completion of the review, the  
10   department must take immediate steps to amend department rules  
11   accordingly.

12        (2) This section expires December 31, 2018.

13        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 71.24  
14    RCW to read as follows:

15        (1) The authority must immediately perform a review of its rules,  
16    policies, and procedures related to the documentation requirements  
17    for behavioral health services with regard to individual initial  
18    assessments. The review must identify areas in which duplicative or  
19    inefficient documentation requirements can be eliminated or  
20    streamlined for providers. The authority must complete the review by  
21    November 1, 2017. Upon completion of the review, the authority must  
22    take immediate steps to amend authority rules accordingly.

23        (2) This section expires December 31, 2018.

24        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Section 2 of this act takes effect only if  
25    neither Substitute House Bill No. 1388 (including any later  
26    amendments or substitutes) nor Substitute Senate Bill No. 5259  
27    (including any later amendments or substitutes) is signed into law by  
28    the governor by the effective date of this section.

29        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Section 3 of this act takes effect only if  
30    Substitute House Bill No. 1388 (including any later amendments or  
31    substitutes) or Substitute Senate Bill No. 5259 (including any later  
32    amendments or substitutes) is signed into law by the governor by the  
33    effective date of this section.

34        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    If specific funding for the purposes of  
35    this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not

1 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
2 act is null and void.

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