
SENATE BILL 5074

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Wagoner, Dhingra, and Wilson, C.

Prefiled 01/05/21. Read first time 01/11/21. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing safe station pilot programs for
2 persons in need of substance use disorder treatment; adding a new
3 section to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 70.385
4 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 concept 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 scheduled drop-in services or may have a
12 scheduled response unit to address and respond to substance abuse
13 treatment service inquiries at fire station locations. Basic
14 screening is provided by mental health professionals, substance use
15 disorder professionals, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses,
16 or emergency medical technicians who are trained to provide a
17 welcoming environment and connect persons to treatment support and
18 services, including transportation to acute medical services when
19 warranted. Safe spaces break down barriers for individuals and allow
20 them to speak and interact with supportive peers in recovery. Safe
21 stations provide an alternative to emergency rooms and can serve as a

1 diversion for people who need help but are not at the point of
2 crisis.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to appropriation, the authority shall manage a grant
6 program to award funding to fire departments in the state of
7 Washington to implement safe station pilot programs.

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

10 (3) A person referred to crisis services by a safe station grant
11 program has priority for admission to evaluation and treatment
12 facilities and secure withdrawal management and stabilization
13 facilities.

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

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

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