
SENATE BILL 5829

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Dhingra, Frockt, Gildon, Wagoner, and L. Wilson

Read first time 01/12/22. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to appropriations for behavioral health; creating
2 a new section; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The health care authority shall work
6 with managed care organizations to implement a seven percent average
7 rate increase in reimbursement for provision of covered inpatient,
8 residential, or outpatient behavioral health services to medicaid
9 clients by licensed and certified community behavioral health
10 agencies, for the purpose of improving employee recruitment and
11 retention, in comparison to rates established in the fiscal year
12 ending June 30, 2022, to be effective July 1, 2022. The authority may
13 employ mechanisms such as directed payment or other options allowable
14 under federal medicaid law to assure funding provided to managed care
15 organizations under this subsection is used for the intended purpose,
16 and shall verify that funds appropriated are used for their intended
17 purpose pursuant to the process established under RCW 71.24.885.

18 (2) The health care authority shall require managed care
19 organizations to track and report to the authority how funds provided
20 under subsection (1) of this section are used by community behavioral
21 health agencies to improve employee recruitment and retention,

1 including data on vacancy rates, turnover metrics, and wage growth in
2 community behavioral health agencies. The authority shall require
3 basic auditing of these expenditures. The authority shall report its
4 findings to the governor and appropriate committees of the
5 legislature annually by December 1st.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of \$10,000,000, or as much thereof
7 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June
8 30, 2023, from the general fund to the state health care authority
9 for the purpose of providing bridge funding to community behavioral
10 health agencies participating in federal certified community
11 behavioral health clinic expansion grant programs to sustain their
12 continued level of operations following expiration of federal grant
13 funding during the planning process for adoption of the certified
14 community behavioral health clinic model statewide.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 30, 2024.

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