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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1929**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cortes, Eslick, Ortiz-Self, Leavitt, Duerr, Ramel, Slatter, Taylor, Orwall, Ryu, Reed, Simmons, Ormsby, Fey, Callan, Peterson, Timmons, Kloba, Macri, Street, Gregerson, Doglio, Paul, Chopp, Mena, Goodman, Lekanoff, Reeves, Fosse, Pollet, and Davis)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting young adults following inpatient  
2 behavioral health treatment; adding a new section to chapter 74.09  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature has committed to and  
6 invested in ensuring that young people exiting the system of care do  
7 so with safe housing and developmentally responsive services through  
8 the enactment of Substitute Senate Bill No. 6560 (2018) and Second  
9 Substitute House Bill No. 1905 (2022).

10 (2) The legislature finds that young people who exit behavioral  
11 health inpatient treatment are the largest group of people who become  
12 homeless within three to 12 months of all the young people who exit  
13 any publicly funded system of care, as identified in a 2023 report  
14 produced by the research and data analysis division of the department  
15 of social and health services.

16 (3) The legislature has invested significant funding in the  
17 behavioral health system and finds that ensuring a person's safe  
18 return to the community postinpatient treatment is a high priority  
19 and a major opportunity to end their experience with homelessness. In  
20 addition, the legislature finds that a young person who enters  
21 treatment demonstrates the courage to engage in their personal health

1 and creates the opportunity for family and community reunification,  
2 career development, and a full life.

3 (4) The legislature further finds that it often takes more time  
4 and resources than expected during a person's inpatient treatment  
5 episode to identify a return to community plan that includes long-  
6 term, safe housing and a developmentally and culturally responsive  
7 support system that includes relationships, services, and passions.

8 (5) For these reasons, the legislature finds that having an  
9 interim housing option that provides a safe and soft landing  
10 postinpatient treatment, located on each side of the state, that has  
11 well-trained staff and peers who have behavioral health expertise, is  
12 a sound investment in our young people and our collective goals to  
13 prevent and end homelessness.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
17 specific purpose, the postinpatient housing program for young adults  
18 is established to provide supportive transitional housing with  
19 behavioral health support focused on securing long-term housing for  
20 young adults exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment.

21 (2) To be eligible for the postinpatient housing program for  
22 young adults created under this section, a person must:

23 (a) Be 18 through 24 years of age;

24 (b) (i) Be exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment; or

25 (ii) Have exited inpatient behavioral health treatment within the  
26 last month and be engaged in a recovery plan; and

27 (c) Not have secured long-term housing.

28 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
29 specific purpose and to fulfill the requirements of this section, the  
30 authority shall:

31 (a) Provide funding to a community-based organization or  
32 organizations or federally recognized tribes within Washington or  
33 tribal organizations that serve American Indians and Alaska Natives  
34 in Washington with expertise in working with young people  
35 experiencing unaccompanied homelessness, behavioral health  
36 conditions, or both, to operate a residential program or programs as  
37 described in this subsection (3)(a). The organization selected to  
38 operate a residential program or programs in this subsection (3)(a)  
39 may choose whether or not to serve individuals eligible according to

1 the criteria established in subsection (2) of this section. The  
2 residential program or programs must be voluntary for participants  
3 and may not be a secure facility, or a facility that limits  
4 residents' ingress and egress pursuant to chapter 71.24 RCW, or a  
5 facility at which individuals may be detained pursuant to chapter  
6 71.05 RCW. In addition, the authority shall consult with a transition  
7 support provider when soliciting and selecting a community-based  
8 organization or organizations under this subsection. The funding  
9 provided under this subsection must be used to:

10 (i) Establish at least two residential programs with six to 10  
11 beds with one program on either side of the Cascade mountain range;

12 (ii) Establish a developmentally and culturally responsive  
13 environment that values healing and recovery;

14 (iii) Engage peers with behavioral health experience in the  
15 support and recovery of individuals served by the program;

16 (iv) Serve individuals determined eligible according to the  
17 criteria established in subsection (2) of this section for up to 90  
18 days; and

19 (v) Support and strengthen the ongoing healing and learning that  
20 occurred for those served by the program during their inpatient  
21 treatment;

22 (b) Provide additional funding to the transition support provider  
23 for:

24 (i) Consultation and training services to the residential program  
25 or programs selected under (a) of this subsection;

26 (ii) Return-to-community planning for the individuals served by  
27 the residential programs described under (a) of this subsection; and

28 (iii) To the extent possible, making contact with individuals  
29 served by the residential programs described under (a) of this  
30 subsection at regular intervals after those individuals leave the  
31 residential program and reporting this information to the authority;

32 (c) Provide flexible funding to support individuals served by the  
33 residential programs described under (a) of this subsection. The  
34 flexible funding provided under this subsection may be provided to  
35 support the immediate needs of the individual. Uses of the flexible  
36 funding provided under this subsection may include, but are not  
37 limited to, the following:

38 (i) Car repair or other transportation assistance;

39 (ii) Rental application fees, a security deposit, or short-term  
40 rental assistance; or

1 (iii) Other uses that will help support the person's housing  
2 stability, education, or employment, or meet immediate basic needs;  
3 and

4 (d) Provide funding to contract with individuals or entities that  
5 provide behavioral health support to individuals determined eligible  
6 according to the criteria established in subsection (2) of this  
7 section, which may include, but are not limited to:

- 8 (i) On-site and community-based behavioral health supports;
- 9 (ii) Peer supports; and
- 10 (iii) Medication management.

11 (4) For purposes of this section, "transition support provider"  
12 means a community-based organization selected by the authority that  
13 continues to:

14 (a) Provide information and support services related to safe  
15 housing and support services for youth exiting inpatient behavioral  
16 health treatment; and

17 (b) Organize a coalition of community housing providers,  
18 federally recognized tribes within Washington or tribal organizations  
19 that serve American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington,  
20 inpatient behavioral health discharge planners, and young people with  
21 lived experience of behavioral health conditions or unaccompanied  
22 homelessness.

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