
SENATE BILL 5031

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator C. Wilson

Prefiled 12/10/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to statewide health care coordination and
2 communication regarding individuals housed in facilities of
3 confinement; and adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the growing
6 number of projects and programs between and within government
7 agencies related to the health of individuals housed in confinement
8 settings create challenges in coordination and communication. These
9 health issues include mental health, traumatic brain injury,
10 substance use, communicable disease and infection prevention, health
11 preventive services, and excess mortality.

12 The legislature further finds that health in correctional
13 institutions and other confinement settings is vital to public health
14 and reentry because many individuals in these settings interact with
15 and return to their communities. Statewide coordination and
16 communication efforts for treating individuals in correctional and
17 other confinement facilities will positively influence the community
18 and reentry of such individuals.

19 The legislature intends to address the lack of coordination and
20 communication caused by the numerous projects and programs relating
21 to individuals housed in confinement settings by creating a new

1 council within the department of health that will be supported by
2 representation from state agencies, local governments, federally
3 recognized tribes, and other relevant parties.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
6 otherwise.

7 (1) "Confined" or "confinement" means incarcerated in a
8 correctional institution or admitted to an institute for mental
9 disease, as defined in 42 C.F.R. part 435, Sec. 1010.

10 (2) "Correctional institution" has the meaning provided in RCW
11 9.94.049.

12 (3) "Council" means the council of health care coordination for
13 youth and adults in facilities of confinement.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The council of health care
15 coordination for youth and adults in facilities of confinement is
16 hereby created and located in the department of health for the
17 purpose of addressing coordination and communication between
18 federally recognized tribes and state and local agencies that house
19 individuals in confinement settings.

20 (2)(a) The council shall be composed of the following voting
21 members:

22 (i) A chair appointed by the secretary of the department of
23 health;

24 (ii) The secretary of the department of social and health
25 services, or the secretary's designee;

26 (iii) The director of the health care authority, or the
27 director's designee;

28 (iv) The secretary of the department of corrections, or the
29 secretary's designee;

30 (v) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and
31 families, or the secretary's designee;

32 (vi) One member representing the Washington association of
33 sheriffs and police chiefs;

34 (vii) One member representing a federally recognized tribe in
35 Washington state, appointed by the governor's office of Indian
36 affairs;

37 (viii) The governor or the governor's designee;

1 (ix) One member representing county juvenile court
2 administrators;

3 (x) One member with lived experience of using the health care
4 system in an institution of total confinement; and

5 (xi) Two members representing behavioral health administrative
6 services organizations.

7 (b) The council may also include as nonvoting members other
8 attendees as councilmembers deem appropriate including, but not
9 limited to, additional persons with lived experience of using the
10 health care system in an institution of total confinement or members
11 of the public with knowledge of carceral health care.

12 (c) Members of the council shall serve without additional
13 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in
14 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 while attending meetings
15 of the council or on official business authorized by the council. The
16 department of health must provide stipends for councilmembers in
17 accordance with RCW 43.03.220.

18 (3) The secretary of the department of health shall appoint a
19 physician, an epidemiologist, and an administrative assistant to
20 support the work of the council. The secretary of the department of
21 health shall designate either the physician or the epidemiologist to
22 be the chair of the council, a full-time position. The council may
23 select other officers as the voting members deem necessary.

24 (4) The council shall meet at least quarterly. Additional
25 meetings may be called by the chair and shall be called by the chair
26 upon the written request of eight members. Meetings must be held in
27 accordance with the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

28 (5) Councilmembers are responsible for tracking activities within
29 their respective agencies or jurisdictions that relate to the health
30 of individuals housed in facilities of confinement.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The council shall review current laws
32 and policies relating to health care information sharing among
33 agencies that house individuals in jails, the department of
34 corrections, juvenile rehabilitation facilities, juvenile detention
35 facilities, western and eastern state hospitals, the special
36 commitment center, and other entities as the council finds
37 appropriate. The council shall make recommendations to:

1 (a) Improve and ensure information and data sharing among and
2 within state agencies regarding the health of adults and juveniles in
3 such facilities;

4 (b) Improve coordination among and within state and local
5 agencies and avoid duplication;

6 (c) Provide an easy, fast, and effective forum for communication
7 and information sharing among the department of health, the health
8 care authority, the department of social and health services, the
9 department of corrections, the department of children, youth, and
10 families, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs,
11 court administrators, and federal, local, and community
12 organizations; and

13 (d) Improve communication and information sharing between the
14 state and its federal partners to proactively address public health
15 issues.

16 (2) The council may appoint such advisory committees as may be
17 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The council
18 shall review each advisory committee on a biennial basis to determine
19 whether to continue the advisory committee.

20 (3) A council member must participate in or coordinate with any
21 additional councils or statewide activities created in the future
22 involving the health of adults and youth who are incarcerated or
23 otherwise housed in confinement settings.

24 (4) By November 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
25 must submit a report on the council's activities accomplished in the
26 prior year to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
27 legislature. The report shall include whether the allocation of
28 personnel, composition of the council, and charge of the council are
29 adequate to meet its purpose. The report must comply with the
30 requirements of RCW 43.01.036.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act
32 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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