
HOUSE BILL 2756

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Talcott and Lantz

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to mental health services; adding a new section to
2 chapter 71.24 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that empowering mental
5 health consumers by allowing them to direct and pay for their care will
6 improve the delivery of mental health services. The creation of a
7 voucher-based system of care will reduce administrative expenses and
8 increase funding available for direct care.

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

11 (1) The department shall establish a system of serving mental
12 health consumers based on a voucher system. After being determined
13 eligible for services under this chapter, a consumer shall be provided
14 a voucher that may be used to purchase mental health services from
15 qualified providers. Vouchers may be redeemed through qualified
16 community-based case managers, designated by the department.

17 (2) The department shall provide for statewide access to crisis

1 services, housing services, and ombudsman services.

2 (3) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

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