
SENATE BILL 5333

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, McAuliffe, Rolfes, Becker, Schlicher, Harper, Nelson, Hobbs, Frockt, Kline, and Shin

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to mental health first aid; adding a new section to
2 chapter 71.24 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a lack of
5 information about mental health problems amongst the general public
6 leads to stigmatizing attitudes and prevents people from seeking help
7 early and seeking the best sort of help. It also prevents people from
8 providing support to family members, friends, and colleagues because
9 they might not know what to do. This lack of knowledge about mental
10 health problems limits the initial accessibility of evidence-based
11 treatments and leads to a lack of support for people with a mental
12 disorder from family, friends, and other members of the community.

13 (2) The focus on training for teachers and educational staff is
14 intended to provide opportunities for early intervention when the first
15 signs of developing mental illness may be recognized in children,
16 teens, and young adults, so that appropriate referrals may be made to
17 evidence-based behavioral health services.

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

3 (1) The department shall provide funds for mental health first-aid
4 training targeted at teachers and educational staff. The training will
5 follow the model developed by the department of psychology in
6 Melbourne, Australia. Instruction provided will describe common mental
7 disorders that arise in youth, their possible causes and risk factors,
8 the availability of evidence-based medical, psychological, and
9 alternative treatments, processes for making referrals for behavioral
10 health services, and methods to effectively render assistance in both
11 initial intervention and crisis situations. The department shall
12 collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public school
13 instruction to identify sites and methods of instruction that leverage
14 local resources to the extent possible for the purpose of making the
15 mental health first-aid training broadly available.

16 (2) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
17 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
18 2014, from the general fund to the department of social and health
19 services for the purposes of this section.

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