
Appropriations Committee

HB 1775

Brief Description: Authorizing the department of social and health services special commitment center to seek eligibility and reimbursement for health care costs covered by federal medicare, medicaid, and veterans health benefits.

Sponsors: Representatives Cody, Jenkins, Tharinger and Muri; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorizes the Department of Social and Health Services to act on behalf of a resident of the Special Commitment Center for the purposes of applying for health care benefits.
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Hearing Date: 2/18/15

Staff: James Kettel (786-7123).

Background:

A Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) suffers from a mental abnormality, or personality disorder, and has been convicted of, or charged with, a sexually violent offense. An SVP is likely to engage in predatory acts of sexual violence if not confined to a secure facility. When it appears that a person may meet the criteria of an SVP, a prosecuting agency may file a petition to confine the person alleged as an SVP. If a person is found at trial beyond a reasonable doubt to be an SVP, then the state is authorized under the Community Protection Act of 1990 to involuntarily commit the person to a total confinement facility on McNeil Island, called the Special Commitment Center (SCC), for an indefinite period of time.

The individual is held in total confinement until: (a) the individual's condition has so changed that the individual no longer meets the definition of an SVP; or (b) the court orders the person's conditional release to a less-restrictive alternative placement. During the period of total

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confinement, the SCC is responsible for outpatient care, inpatient care, prescription drugs, and other medical care for residents.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Social and Health Services is authorized to act on behalf of a civilly committed resident of the Special Commitment Center for the purposes of applying for Medicare, Medicaid, veterans health benefits, or other health care benefits available as a result of participation in a health care exchange.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 28, 2015.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.