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## Appropriations Committee

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### SB 5693

**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:** Senators Miloscia, Darneille, Fraser and O'Ban; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 3/16/15

**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. A 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 a SVP, a prosecuting agency may file a petition to confine the person alleged as a SVP. If a person is found at trial beyond a reasonable doubt to be a 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 a 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:** Available.

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