

SSB 5693 - S AMD 1225
By Senator Warnick

ADOPTED 02/25/2022

1 On page 345, line 12, increase the General Fund—State
2 Appropriation (FY 2023) by \$91,000

3 Adjust the total appropriation accordingly.

4 On page 370, after line 11, insert the following:

5 "(95) \$91,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal
6 year 2023 is provided solely for the department to convene a work
7 group to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in
8 Washington communities.

9 (a) The membership of the work group shall emphasize individuals
10 with actual, practical experience dealing with the behavioral health
11 system and shall include:

12 (i) Individuals who have received behavioral health services in a
13 variety of settings and circumstances throughout the behavioral
14 health system;

15 (ii) Family members of individuals who have received behavioral
16 health services;

17 (iii) Behavioral health treatment providers with experience
18 providing behavioral health services in various settings, including
19 crisis behavioral health services. Providers serving on the work
20 group may not represent, or be employed by, any organizations or
21 interest groups representing the interests of health care providers
22 or behavioral health stakeholders;

23 (iv) Tribal representatives with experience providing or
24 receiving behavioral health services from tribal health departments;

25 (v) Members of the clergy;

26 (vi) Law enforcement officers with training and experience in
27 responding to individuals with behavioral health conditions or who
28 are undergoing behavioral health crises;

29 (vii) Behavioral health advocates; and

30 (viii) Any other individuals with experience in the behavioral
31 health system, as deemed appropriate by the department.

32 (b) The work group shall, at a minimum, discuss:

1 (i) Factors leading to increased demand for behavioral health
2 services in Washington;
3 (ii) Barriers to addressing unmet needs and any gaps in the
4 behavioral health system;
5 (iii) The effectiveness of the state's integrated care initiative
6 regarding access for the seriously mentally ill, reductions in
7 hospitalization and institutionalization, improvements in community-
8 based care, and support for an effective network of community-based
9 care providers for the seriously mentally ill; and
10 (iv) Suggestions for improving the behavioral health system,
11 including methods to address behavioral health workforce shortages.
12 (c) The work group shall submit to the governor and the
13 appropriate committees of the legislature a progress report by
14 December 15, 2022, and its findings and recommendations by June 30,
15 2023."

EFFECT: Provides \$91,000 for the Department of Health to convene a work group relating to the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in Washington communities.

EXPENDITURE EFFECT (2021-2023): \$91,000 Near General Fund—State/
\$91,000 Total Funds

FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK EXPENDITURE EFFECT: \$91,000 Near General Fund—
State

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