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**ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Robinson, Lovick, Rolfes, Mullet, Dhingra, Billig, Hasegawa, Keiser, Kuderer, Liias, Lovelett, Nobles, Randall, Stanford, Wellman, and C. Wilson)

AN ACT Relating to justice system and behavioral health responses for persons experiencing circumstances that involve controlled substances, counterfeit substances, legend drugs, and drug paraphernalia; amending RCW 69.50.4011, 69.50.4013, 69.50.4014, 69.41.030, 69.50.509, 69.50.4121, 9.96.060, 36.70A.200, 71.24.589, 71.24.590, 10.31.110, and 84.36.043; amending 2021 c 311 s 29 (uncodified); adding a new section to chapter 43.43 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 69.50 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 26.12 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 71.24 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 43.216 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 10.31.115; prescribing penalties; making appropriations; providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that substance use disorders are a public health issue. Solutions must address not only the criminal legal response, but be data-driven, evidence-based, and represent best practices, working directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, and improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of those served. The state must follow principles of harm reduction, which means practical strategies aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm reduction involves safer use of supplies as well as care settings, staffing, and interactions that are person-centered, supportive, and welcoming.

The legislature finds that the recommendations of the substance use recovery services advisory committee reflect hours of diligent work by individuals with a range of professional and personal experience, who brought that experience to the committee, and whose expertise is reflected in the recommendations.

**Part I – Prohibiting Knowing Possession of a Controlled Substance, Counterfeit Substance, or Legend Drug**

**Sec.**  RCW 69.50.4011 and 2003 c 53 s 332 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to ((~~create, deliver, or possess a counterfeit substance~~)):

(a) Create or deliver a counterfeit substance; or

(b) Knowingly possess a counterfeit substance.

(2) Any person who violates subsection (1)(a) of this section with respect to:

(a) A counterfeit substance classified in Schedule I or II which is a narcotic drug, or flunitrazepam classified in Schedule IV, is guilty of a class B felony and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than ((~~ten~~)) 10 years, fined not more than ((~~twenty-five thousand dollars~~)) $25,000, or both;

(b) A counterfeit substance which is methamphetamine, is guilty of a class B felony and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than ((~~ten~~)) 10 years, fined not more than ((~~twenty-five thousand dollars~~)) $25,000, or both;

(c) Any other counterfeit substance classified in Schedule I, II, or III, is guilty of a class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW;

(d) A counterfeit substance classified in Schedule IV, except flunitrazepam, is guilty of a class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW;

(e) A counterfeit substance classified in Schedule V, is guilty of a class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(3)(a) A violation of subsection (1)(b) of this section is a gross misdemeanor. The prosecutor is encouraged to divert such cases for assessment, treatment, or other services.

(b) In lieu of jail booking and referral to the prosecutor, law enforcement is encouraged to offer a referral to assessment and services available under RCW 10.31.110 or other program or entity responsible for receiving referrals in lieu of legal system involvement, which may include, but are not limited to, arrest and jail alternative programs established under RCW 36.28A.450, law enforcement assisted diversion programs established under RCW 71.24.589, and the recovery navigator program established under RCW 71.24.115.

(c) Upon arraignment for a violation of subsection (1)(b) of this section, the court shall advise the defendant of the pretrial diversion program as indicated in section 10(2) of this act.

**Sec.**  RCW 69.50.4013 and 2022 c 16 s 86 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess a controlled substance unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his or her professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by this chapter.

(2)(a) Except as provided in RCW 69.50.4014, ((~~any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C felony punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW~~)) a violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor. The prosecutor is encouraged to divert such cases for assessment, treatment, or other services.

(b) In lieu of jail booking and referral to the prosecutor, law enforcement is encouraged to offer a referral to assessment and services available under RCW 10.31.110 or other program or entity responsible for receiving referrals in lieu of legal system involvement, which may include, but are not limited to, arrest and jail alternative programs established under RCW 36.28A.450, law enforcement assisted diversion programs established under RCW 71.24.589, and the recovery navigator program established under RCW 71.24.115.

(c) Upon arraignment for a violation of this section, the court shall advise the defendant of the availability of the pretrial diversion program as indicated in section 10(2) of this act.

(3)(a) The possession, by a person ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age or older, of useable cannabis, cannabis concentrates, or cannabis-infused products in amounts that do not exceed those set forth in RCW 69.50.360(3) is not a violation of this section, this chapter, or any other provision of Washington state law.

(b) The possession of cannabis, useable cannabis, cannabis concentrates, and cannabis-infused products being physically transported or delivered within the state, in amounts not exceeding those that may be established under RCW 69.50.385(3), by a licensed employee of a common carrier when performing the duties authorized in accordance with RCW 69.50.382 and 69.50.385, is not a violation of this section, this chapter, or any other provision of Washington state law.

(4)(a) The delivery by a person ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age or older to one or more persons ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age or older, during a single ((~~twenty-four~~)) 24 hour period, for noncommercial purposes and not conditioned upon or done in connection with the provision or receipt of financial consideration, of any of the following cannabis products, is not a violation of this section, this chapter, or any other provisions of Washington state law:

(i) One-half ounce of useable cannabis;

(ii) Eight ounces of cannabis-infused product in solid form;

(iii) ((~~Thirty-six~~)) 36 ounces of cannabis-infused product in liquid form; or

(iv) Three and one-half grams of cannabis concentrates.

(b) The act of delivering cannabis or a cannabis product as authorized under this subsection (4) must meet one of the following requirements:

(i) The delivery must be done in a location outside of the view of general public and in a nonpublic place; or

(ii) The cannabis or cannabis product must be in the original packaging as purchased from the cannabis retailer.

(5) No person under ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age may ((~~possess,~~)) manufacture, sell, ((~~or~~)) distribute, or knowingly possess cannabis, cannabis-infused products, or cannabis concentrates, regardless of THC concentration. This does not include qualifying patients with a valid authorization.

(6) The possession by a qualifying patient or designated provider of cannabis concentrates, useable cannabis, cannabis-infused products, or plants in accordance with chapter 69.51A RCW is not a violation of this section, this chapter, or any other provision of Washington state law.

**Sec.**  RCW 69.50.4014 and 2022 c 16 s 88 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in RCW 69.50.401(2)(c) or as otherwise authorized by this chapter, any person found guilty of knowing possession of ((~~forty~~)) 40 grams or less of cannabis is guilty of a misdemeanor. The prosecutor is encouraged to divert such cases for assessment, treatment, or other services.

(2) In lieu of jail booking and referral to the prosecutor, law enforcement is encouraged to offer a referral to assessment and services available under RCW 10.31.110 or other program or entity responsible for receiving referrals in lieu of legal system involvement, which may include, but are not limited to, arrest and jail alternative programs established under RCW 36.28A.450, law enforcement assisted diversion programs established under RCW 71.24.589, and the recovery navigator program established under RCW 71.24.115.

(3) Upon arraignment for violation of this section, the court shall advise the defendant of the availability of the pretrial diversion program as indicated in section 10(2) of this act.

**Sec.**  RCW 69.41.030 and 2020 c 80 s 41 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell((~~,~~)) or deliver any legend drug, or knowingly possess any legend drug except upon the order or prescription of a physician under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician and surgeon under chapter 18.57 RCW, an optometrist licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW who is certified by the optometry board under RCW 18.53.010, a dentist under chapter 18.32 RCW, a podiatric physician and surgeon under chapter 18.22 RCW, a veterinarian under chapter 18.92 RCW, a commissioned medical or dental officer in the United States armed forces or public health service in the discharge of his or her official duties, a duly licensed physician or dentist employed by the veterans administration in the discharge of his or her official duties, a registered nurse or advanced registered nurse practitioner under chapter 18.79 RCW when authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission, a pharmacist licensed under chapter 18.64 RCW to the extent permitted by drug therapy guidelines or protocols established under RCW 18.64.011 and authorized by the commission and approved by a practitioner authorized to prescribe drugs, a physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW when authorized by the Washington medical commission, or any of the following professionals in any province of Canada that shares a common border with the state of Washington or in any state of the United States: A physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a physician licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery, a dentist licensed to practice dentistry, a podiatric physician and surgeon licensed to practice podiatric medicine and surgery, a licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner, a licensed physician assistant, or a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the above provisions shall not apply to sale, delivery, or possession by drug wholesalers or drug manufacturers, or their agents or employees, or to any practitioner acting within the scope of his or her license, or to a common or contract carrier or warehouse operator, or any employee thereof, whose possession of any legend drug is in the usual course of business or employment: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this chapter or chapter 18.64 RCW shall prevent a family planning clinic that is under contract with the health care authority from selling, delivering, possessing, and dispensing commercially prepackaged oral contraceptives prescribed by authorized, licensed health care practitioners: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this chapter prohibits possession or delivery of legend drugs by an authorized collector or other person participating in the operation of a drug take-back program authorized in chapter 69.48 RCW.

(2)(a) A violation of this section involving the sale, delivery, or possession with intent to sell or deliver is a class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(b) A violation of this section involving knowing possession is a misdemeanor. The prosecutor is encouraged to divert such cases for assessment, treatment, or other services.

(c) In lieu of jail booking and referral to the prosecutor for a violation of this section involving knowing possession, law enforcement is encouraged to offer a referral to assessment and services available under RCW 10.31.110 or other program or entity responsible for receiving referrals in lieu of legal system involvement, which may include, but are not limited to, arrest and jail alternative programs established under RCW 36.28A.450, law enforcement assisted diversion programs established under RCW 71.24.589, and the recovery navigator program established under RCW 71.24.115.

(d) Upon arraignment for a violation of this section involving knowing possession, the court shall advise the defendant of the availability of the pretrial diversion program as indicated in section 10(2) of this act.

**Sec.**  RCW 69.50.509 and 1987 c 202 s 228 are each amended to read as follows:

If, upon the sworn complaint of any person, it shall be made to appear to any judge of the superior court, district court, or municipal court that there is probable cause to believe that any controlled substance is being used, manufactured, sold, bartered, exchanged, administered, dispensed, delivered, distributed, produced, knowingly possessed, given away, furnished or otherwise disposed of or kept in violation of the provisions of this chapter, such judge shall, with or without the approval of the prosecuting attorney, issue a warrant directed to any law enforcement officer of the state, commanding him or her to search the premises designated and described in such complaint and warrant, and to seize all controlled substances there found, together with the vessels in which they are contained, and all implements, furniture and fixtures used or kept for the illegal manufacture, sale, barter, exchange, administering, dispensing, delivering, distributing, producing, possessing, giving away, furnishing or otherwise disposing of such controlled substances, and to safely keep the same, and to make a return of said warrant within three days, showing all acts and things done thereunder, with a particular statement of all articles seized and the name of the person or persons in whose possession the same were found, if any, and if no person be found in the possession of said articles, the returns shall so state. The provisions of RCW 10.31.030 as now or hereafter amended shall apply to actions taken pursuant to this chapter.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.43 RCW to read as follows:

The Washington state patrol bureau of forensic laboratory services shall aim to complete the necessary analysis for any evidence submitted for a suspected violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, or 69.41.030 within 45 days of receipt of the request for analysis.

The Washington state patrol bureau of forensic laboratory services' failure to comply with this section shall not constitute grounds for dismissal of a criminal charge.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The following sums, or as much thereof as may be necessary, are each appropriated to the Washington state patrol: $780,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and $425,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The amounts in this section are provided solely to support the Washington state patrol bureau of forensic laboratory services in completing the necessary analysis for any evidence submitted for a suspected violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, or 69.41.030 within 45 days of receipt of the request for analysis.

**Part II – Relating to Drug Paraphernalia**

**Sec.**  RCW 69.50.4121 and 2022 c 16 s 92 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Every person who sells ((~~or gives,~~)) or permits to be sold ((~~or given~~)) to any person any drug paraphernalia in any form commits a class I civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW. For purposes of this subsection, "drug paraphernalia" means all equipment, products, and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, ((~~testing, analyzing,~~)) packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance other than cannabis. Drug paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to objects used, intended for use, or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing cocaine into the human body, such as:

(a) Metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, or ceramic pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads, or punctured metal bowls;

(b) Water pipes;

(c) Carburetion tubes and devices;

(d) Smoking and carburetion masks;

(e) Miniature cocaine spoons and cocaine vials;

(f) Chamber pipes;

(g) Carburetor pipes;

(h) Electric pipes;

(i) Air-driven pipes; and

(j) Ice pipes or chillers.

(2) It shall be no defense to a prosecution for a violation of this section that the person acted, or was believed by the defendant to act, as agent or representative of another.

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits ((~~legal~~)) distribution ((~~of injection~~)) or use of public health supplies including, but not limited to, syringe equipment, smoking equipment, or drug testing equipment, through public health ((~~and~~)) programs, community-based HIV prevention programs, and pharmacies. Public health and syringe service program staff taking samples of substances and using drug testing equipment for the purpose of analyzing the composition of the substances or detecting the presence of certain substances are acting legally and are exempt from arrest and prosecution under RCW 69.50.4011, 69.50.4013, 69.50.4014, or 69.41.030.

**Part III - Creating a Pretrial Diversion Program for Individuals Charged with Possession and Vacating Possession Convictions**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 69.50 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Nothing in this section prevents the defense, with the consent of the prosecutor as required by RCW 2.30.030, from seeking to resolve charges of possession under RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, 69.50.4014, or 69.41.030 through available therapeutic courts or other alternatives to prosecution.

(2) For any charged violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, 69.50.4014, or 69.41.030, the court shall advise the defendant and his or her attorney of the pretrial diversion program. This notification must include all of the following:

(a) A full description of the procedures for pretrial diversion;

(b) A general explanation of the roles and authorities of the probation department, the prosecuting attorney, the program, and the court in the process;

(c) A clear statement that the court may grant pretrial diversion with respect to any offense under RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, 69.50.4014, or 69.41.030 that is charged, provided that the defendant pleads not guilty to the charge or charges, waives the right to a speedy trial and that upon the defendant's successful completion of the program, as specified in subsection (12)(d) of this section, the positive recommendation of the program authority and motion of the defendant, prosecuting attorney, the court, or the probation department, the court must dismiss the charge or charges against the defendant;

(d) A clear statement that if the defendant has not substantially complied with services provided that are appropriate to the defendant's circumstances, the prosecuting attorney may make a motion to terminate pretrial diversion and schedule further proceedings as otherwise provided in this section;

(e) An explanation of criminal record retention and disposition resulting from participation in the pretrial diversion program and the defendant's rights relative to answering questions about his or her arrest and pretrial diversion following successful completion of the program; and

(f) A clear statement that under federal law it is unlawful for any person who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance to ship or transport in interstate or foreign commerce, or possess in or affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition, or to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

(3) Upon a motion of the defendant and agreement to waive his or her right to a speedy trial if granted pretrial diversion, the court may grant the motion and continue the hearing and refer the defendant for an assessment by any substance use disorder treatment program as designated in chapter 71.24 RCW.

(4)(a) For defendants who agree to participate in the diversion program, the state shall make resources available to assist the defendant in obtaining a substance use disorder evaluation within seven days of the defendant's agreement to participate in the diversion program. The substance use evaluation must be provided at no expense to defendants who qualify for public defense services or who are found to be indigent by the court. The evaluation must be provided at a location that is accessible to the defendant, and the court must provide the defendant with transportation assistance if such assistance is necessary to make the evaluation accessible to the defendant. The court may contract with a third party to provide substance use disorder assessments and services, which may be collocated at the court or be provided at alternative locations.

(b) The state shall reimburse local courts for costs associated with the substance use disorder assessments and related travel under this subsection.

(5) The treatment program must make a written report to the court stating its findings and recommendations after the examination. The report shall be filed under seal with the court.

(6) The report with the treatment or service plan must be filed with the court and a copy given to the prosecutor, the defendant, and the defendant's counsel.

(7) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose, the assessment and recommended services or treatment must be provided at no cost for individuals who have been found to be indigent by the court.

(8) Once the diagnostic and treatment recommendation has been filed with the court, if the report indicates the individual has a substance use disorder, the court shall inform the individual that under federal law the individual may not possess any firearm or ammunition. The court shall thereafter sign an order of ineligibility to possess firearms as required by RCW 9.41.800 and shall require the individual to surrender all firearms in accordance with RCW 9.41.804.

(9) No statement, or any information procured therefrom relating to the charge for which the defendant is receiving treatment or services, made by the defendant to any treatment or service provider, that is made during the course of any assessment or services provided by the treatment program pursuant to subsections (4) through (6) of this section, and before the reporting of the findings and recommendations to the court, may be admissible in any action or proceeding brought subsequent to the investigation.

(10) A defendant's participation in pretrial diversion under this section does not constitute a conviction, a stipulation to facts, or an admission of guilt for any purpose.

(11) At the time that pretrial diversion is granted, any bail bond on file by or on behalf of the defendant must be exonerated, and the court must enter an order so directing.

(12)(a) If it appears to the prosecuting attorney that the defendant is not substantially complying in the recommended treatment or services, that the defendant is convicted of an offense that reflects the defendant's propensity for violence, that the defendant is charged with a subsequent violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, or 69.41.030, or that the defendant is convicted of a felony, the prosecuting attorney may make a motion for termination from pretrial diversion.

(b) After notice to the defendant, the court must hold a hearing to determine whether pretrial diversion shall be terminated.

(c) If the court finds that the defendant is not substantially complying in the recommended treatment or services, or the court finds that the defendant has been convicted of an intervening crime as indicated in (a) of this subsection, the court must schedule the matter for further proceedings.

(d) If the defendant has successfully completed pretrial diversion, including substantial compliance with recommended treatment or services, at the end of that period, the criminal possession charge or charges must be dismissed.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 69.50 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Prior to sentencing any person convicted of violating RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, 69.50.4014, or 69.41.030(2)(b), the court shall inform the person that under federal law it is unlawful for any person who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance to ship or transport in interstate or foreign commerce, or possess in or affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition, or to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

(2) In courts of limited jurisdiction, an individual who is convicted of a violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, or 69.41.030(2)(b) shall be sentenced as follows:

(a) For individuals convicted of a violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b) or 69.50.4013, if the sentenced individual agrees as a condition of probation to submit to a substance use disorder assessment and comply with recommended treatment, to a term of confinement of up to 364 days all of which shall be suspended for a period not to exceed two years. The court shall give the individual credit for all confinement time served before the sentence if the confinement was solely in regard to the offense for which the individual is being sentenced;

(b) For individuals convicted of a violation of RCW 69.41.030(2)(b), if the sentenced individual agrees as a condition of probation to submit to a substance use disorder assessment and comply with recommended treatment, to a term of confinement of up to 90 days all of which shall be suspended for a period not to exceed one year; and

(c) For individuals convicted of a violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, or 69.41.030(2)(b) where the legend drug is classified as schedule II substance under RCW 69.50.206, if the sentenced individual refuses to submit to a substance use disorder assessment and comply with the recommended treatment as a condition of probation, to imprisonment for a term of not less than 21 days. The sentencing court shall give the individual credit for all confinement time served before the sentencing if the confinement was solely in regard to the offense for which the individual is being sentenced.

(3) For individuals sentenced under subsection (2)(a) or (b) of this section, the court shall order as a condition of probation the individual to submit to a substance use disorder assessment and comply with the recommended treatment.

(a) The court shall assist the defendant in obtaining a substance use disorder evaluation within seven days of the defendant's agreement to participate in the diversion program. The substance use evaluation shall be provided at no expense to defendants who qualify for public defense services or who are found to be indigent by the court. The evaluation shall be provided at a location that is accessible to the defendant, and the court shall provide the defendant with transportation assistance if such assistance is necessary to make the evaluation accessible to the defendant. The court may contract with a third party to provide substance use disorder assessments and services, which may be collocated at the court or be provided at alternative locations. The state shall reimburse local courts for costs associated with the substance use disorder assessments under this subsection.

(b) A diagnostic evaluation and treatment recommendation shall be prepared by a substance use disorder treatment program licensed or certified by the department of health or a qualified probation department approved by the department of social and health services. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the court and filed under seal. Based on the diagnostic evaluation, the court shall determine whether the person shall be required to complete a course in an alcohol and drug information school licensed or certified by the department of health or more intensive treatment in an approved treatment program licensed or certified by the department of health.

(c) Once the diagnostic evaluation and treatment recommendation has been filed with the court, if the report indicates the individual has a substance use disorder, the court shall inform the individual that under federal law the individual may not possess any firearm or ammunition. The court shall thereafter sign an order of ineligibility to possess firearms as required by RCW 9.41.800.

(d) The diagnostic evaluation and treatment recommendation shall include the following:

(i) Type of treatment;

(ii) Nature of treatment;

(iii) Length of treatment;

(iv) A treatment time schedule; and

(v) Approximate cost of the treatment.

(4) A person subject to substance use disorder assessment and treatment shall be required by the court to complete a course in an alcohol and drug information school certified by the department of health or to complete more intensive treatment in a treatment program licensed or certified by the department of health, as determined by the court.

(5) All individuals providing treatment under this section shall implement the integrated and comprehensive screening and assessment process for co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders adopted under RCW 71.24.630.

(6) Any agency that provides treatment ordered under this section, must report to the appropriate probation department where applicable, otherwise to the court, any noncompliance by a person with the conditions of the person's ordered treatment.

(7) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose, the substance use disorder assessment and recommended treatment as ordered by the court shall be provided at no cost for sentenced individuals who have been found to be indigent by the court.

(8) As a condition of probation, the sentenced individual must comply with the treatment recommendations of the substance use disorder assessment.

(9)(a) If it appears to the prosecuting attorney or the court, that the sentenced individual is performing unsatisfactorily in the recommended treatment program, the prosecuting attorney, or the court on its own, shall make a motion for a hearing to consider sanctions. After notice to the sentenced individual, the court shall hold a hearing to determine if a sanction or revocation of the individual's suspended sentence, or any part thereof, is warranted under RCW 3.50.340 or 3.66.069.

(b) The court may not sanction an individual for failing to comply with the recommended treatment if the court finds the sentenced individual has made reasonable efforts to comply with the recommended treatment but cannot comply either due to a lack of available treatment or, for sentenced individuals found to be indigent by the court, due to a lack of funding for treatment.

(10) For individuals sentenced under subsection (2)(a) of this section, if at any point the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the sentenced individual has willfully abandoned or demonstrated a consistent failure to comply with the recommended treatment, the court shall reinstate a portion of the individual's suspended sentence as follows:

(a) For an individual's first instance of being sentenced under this section, the court shall use its discretion in determining an appropriate amount of time of the individual's suspended sentence to reinstate given the facts and circumstances of the particular case;

(b) For an individual's second instance of being sentenced under this section, the court shall reinstate no less than 21 days of the individual's suspended sentence; and

(c) For an individual's third or subsequent instance of being sentenced under this section, the court shall reinstate no less than 45 days of the individual's suspended sentence.

(11) For individuals sentenced under subsection (2)(a) of this section, the court may deem any subsequent charge filed against the individual for violation of RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b), 69.50.4013, or 69.41.030 a willful abandonment of treatment.

(12) If the individual has successfully completed the recommended treatment program, the individual must file proof of successful completion with the court at which time the court must terminate probation and enter an order vacating the individual's conviction under RCW 9.96.060(6).

**Sec.**  RCW 9.96.060 and 2022 c 16 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) When vacating a conviction under this section, the court effectuates the vacation by: (a)(i) Permitting the applicant to withdraw the applicant's plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty; or (ii) if the applicant has been convicted after a plea of not guilty, the court setting aside the verdict of guilty; and (b) the court dismissing the information, indictment, complaint, or citation against the applicant and vacating the judgment and sentence.

(2) Every person convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor offense may apply to the sentencing court for a vacation of the applicant's record of conviction for the offense. If the court finds the applicant meets the requirements of this subsection, the court may in its discretion vacate the record of conviction. Except as provided in subsections (3), (4), ((~~and~~)) (5), and (6) of this section, an applicant may not have the record of conviction for a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor offense vacated if any one of the following is present:

(a) The applicant has not completed all of the terms of the sentence for the offense;

(b) There are any criminal charges against the applicant pending in any court of this state or another state, or in any federal or tribal court, at the time of application;

(c) The offense was a violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 or an attempt to commit a violent offense;

(d) The offense was a violation of RCW 46.61.502 (driving while under the influence), 46.61.504 (actual physical control while under the influence), 9.91.020 (operating a railroad, etc. while intoxicated), or the offense is considered a "prior offense" under RCW 46.61.5055 and the applicant has had a subsequent alcohol or drug violation within ten years of the date of arrest for the prior offense or less than ten years has elapsed since the date of the arrest for the prior offense;

(e) The offense was any misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor violation, including attempt, of chapter 9.68 RCW (obscenity and pornography), chapter 9.68A RCW (sexual exploitation of children), or chapter 9A.44 RCW (sex offenses), except for failure to register as a sex offender under RCW 9A.44.132;

(f) The applicant was convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor offense as defined in RCW 10.99.020, or the court determines after a review of the court file that the offense was committed by one family or household member against another or by one intimate partner against another, or the court, after considering the damage to person or property that resulted in the conviction, any prior convictions for crimes defined in RCW 10.99.020, or for comparable offenses in another state or in federal court, and the totality of the records under review by the court regarding the conviction being considered for vacation, determines that the offense involved domestic violence, and any one of the following factors exist:

(i) The applicant has not provided written notification of the vacation petition to the prosecuting attorney's office that prosecuted the offense for which vacation is sought, or has not provided that notification to the court;

(ii) The applicant has two or more domestic violence convictions stemming from different incidents. For purposes of this subsection, however, if the current application is for more than one conviction that arose out of a single incident, none of those convictions counts as a previous conviction;

(iii) The applicant has signed an affidavit under penalty of perjury affirming that the applicant has not previously had a conviction for a domestic violence offense, and a criminal history check reveals that the applicant has had such a conviction; or

(iv) Less than five years have elapsed since the person completed the terms of the original conditions of the sentence, including any financial obligations and successful completion of any treatment ordered as a condition of sentencing;

(g) For any offense other than those described in (f) of this subsection, less than three years have passed since the person completed the terms of the sentence, including any financial obligations;

(h) The offender has been convicted of a new crime in this state, another state, or federal or tribal court in the three years prior to the vacation application; or

(i) The applicant is currently restrained by a domestic violence protection order, a no-contact order, an antiharassment order, or a civil restraining order which restrains one party from contacting the other party or was previously restrained by such an order and was found to have committed one or more violations of the order in the five years prior to the vacation application.

(3) If the applicant is a victim of sex trafficking, prostitution, or commercial sexual abuse of a minor; sexual assault; or domestic violence as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, or the prosecutor applies on behalf of the state, the sentencing court may vacate the record of conviction if the application satisfies the requirements of RCW 9.96.080. When preparing or filing the petition, the prosecutor is not deemed to be providing legal advice or legal assistance on behalf of the victim, but is fulfilling an administrative function on behalf of the state in order to further their responsibility to seek to reform and improve the administration of criminal justice. A record of conviction vacated using the process in RCW 9.96.080 is subject to subsections ((~~(6) and~~)) (7) and (8) of this section.

(4) Every person convicted prior to January 1, 1975, of violating any statute or rule regarding the regulation of fishing activities, including, but not limited to, RCW 75.08.260, 75.12.060, 75.12.070, 75.12.160, 77.16.020, 77.16.030, 77.16.040, 77.16.060, and 77.16.240 who claimed to be exercising a treaty Indian fishing right, may apply to the sentencing court for vacation of the applicant's record of the misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony conviction for the offense. If the person is deceased, a member of the person's family or an official representative of the tribe of which the person was a member may apply to the court on behalf of the deceased person. Notwithstanding the requirements of RCW 9.94A.640, the court shall vacate the record of conviction if:

(a) The applicant is a member of a tribe that may exercise treaty Indian fishing rights at the location where the offense occurred; and

(b) The state has been enjoined from taking enforcement action of the statute or rule to the extent that it interferes with a treaty Indian fishing right as determined under *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312 (W.D. Wash. 1974), or *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Oregon 1969), and any posttrial orders of those courts, or any other state supreme court or federal court decision.

(5) Every person convicted of a misdemeanor cannabis offense, who was ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age or older at the time of the offense, may apply to the sentencing court for a vacation of the applicant's record of conviction for the offense. A misdemeanor cannabis offense includes, but is not limited to: Any offense under RCW 69.50.4014, from July 1, 2004, onward, and its predecessor statutes, including RCW 69.50.401(e), from March 21, 1979, to July 1, 2004, and RCW 69.50.401(d), from May 21, 1971, to March 21, 1979, and any offense under an equivalent municipal ordinance. If an applicant qualifies under this subsection, the court shall vacate the record of conviction.

(6) If an individual who successfully completes a substance use disorder treatment program as required under section 11 of this act files proof of completion with the court, upon verification that the individual successfully completed the substance use disorder treatment program, the court must vacate the conviction or convictions.

(7) A person who is a family member of a homicide victim may apply to the sentencing court on the behalf of the victim for vacation of the victim's record of conviction for prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030. If an applicant qualifies under this subsection, the court shall vacate the victim's record of conviction.

((~~(7)~~)) (8)(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, once the court vacates a record of conviction under this section, the person shall be released from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense and the fact that the person has been convicted of the offense shall not be included in the person's criminal history for purposes of determining a sentence in any subsequent conviction. For all purposes, including responding to questions on employment or housing applications, a person whose conviction has been vacated under this section may state that he or she has never been convicted of that crime. However, nothing in this section affects the requirements for restoring a right to possess a firearm under RCW 9.41.040. Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, nothing in this section affects or prevents the use of an offender's prior conviction in a later criminal prosecution.

(b) When a court vacates a record of domestic violence as defined in RCW 10.99.020 under this section, the state may not use the vacated conviction in a later criminal prosecution unless the conviction was for: (i) Violating the provisions of a restraining order, no-contact order, or protection order restraining or enjoining the person or restraining the person from going on to the grounds of or entering a residence, workplace, school, or day care, or prohibiting the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of a location, a protected party's person, or a protected party's vehicle (RCW 10.99.040, 10.99.050, 26.09.300, 26.26B.050, 26.44.063, 26.44.150, or 26.52.070, or any of the former RCW 26.50.060, 26.50.070, 26.50.130, and 74.34.145); (ii) stalking (RCW 9A.46.110); or (iii) a domestic violence protection order or vulnerable adult protection order entered under chapter 7.105 RCW. A vacated conviction under this section is not considered a conviction of such an offense for the purposes of 27 C.F.R. 478.11.

(c) A conviction vacated on or after July 28, 2019, qualifies as a prior conviction for the purpose of charging a present recidivist offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 occurring on or after July 28, 2019.

((~~(8)~~)) (9) The clerk of the court in which the vacation order is entered shall immediately transmit the order vacating the conviction to the Washington state patrol identification section and to the local police agency, if any, which holds criminal history information for the person who is the subject of the conviction. The Washington state patrol and any such local police agency shall immediately update their records to reflect the vacation of the conviction, and shall transmit the order vacating the conviction to the federal bureau of investigation. A conviction that has been vacated under this section may not be disseminated or disclosed by the state patrol or local law enforcement agency to any person, except other criminal justice enforcement agencies.

((~~(9)~~)) (10) For the purposes of this section, "cannabis" has the meaning provided in RCW 69.50.101.

**Part IV – Opioid Treatment Rural Access and Expansion**

**Sec.**  RCW 36.70A.200 and 2021 c 265 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) The comprehensive plan of each county and city that is planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall include a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities. Essential public facilities include those facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, regional transit authority facilities as defined in RCW 81.112.020, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, opioid treatment programs including both mobile and fixed-site medication units, recovery residences, harm reduction programs excluding safe injection sites, and inpatient facilities including substance ((~~abuse~~)) use disorder treatment facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020, and secure community transition facilities as defined in RCW 71.09.020.

(b) Unless a facility is expressly listed in (a) of this subsection, essential public facilities do not include facilities that are operated by a private entity in which persons are detained in custody under process of law pending the outcome of legal proceedings but are not used for punishment, correction, counseling, or rehabilitation following the conviction of a criminal offense. Facilities included under this subsection (1)(b) shall not include facilities detaining persons under RCW 71.09.020 ((~~(6) or (15)~~)) (7) or (16) or chapter 10.77 or 71.05 RCW.

(c) The department of children, youth, and families may not attempt to site new community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020 east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range unless there is an equal or greater number of sited community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020 on the western side of the crest of the Cascade mountain range.

(d) For the purpose of this section, "harm reduction programs" means programs that emphasize working directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of those served, and offer low threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other health care services.

(2) Each county and city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall, not later than September 1, 2002, establish a process, or amend its existing process, for identifying and siting essential public facilities and adopt or amend its development regulations as necessary to provide for the siting of secure community transition facilities consistent with statutory requirements applicable to these facilities.

(3) Any city or county not planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall, not later than September 1, 2002, establish a process for siting secure community transition facilities and adopt or amend its development regulations as necessary to provide for the siting of such facilities consistent with statutory requirements applicable to these facilities.

(4) The office of financial management shall maintain a list of those essential state public facilities that are required or likely to be built within the next six years. The office of financial management may at any time add facilities to the list.

(5) No local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities.

(6) No person may bring a cause of action for civil damages based on the good faith actions of any county or city to provide for the siting of secure community transition facilities in accordance with this section and with the requirements of chapter 12, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess. For purposes of this subsection, "person" includes, but is not limited to, any individual, agency as defined in RCW 42.17A.005, corporation, partnership, association, and limited liability entity.

(7) Counties or cities siting facilities pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall comply with RCW 71.09.341.

(8) The failure of a county or city to act by the deadlines established in subsections (2) and (3) of this section is not:

(a) A condition that would disqualify the county or city for grants, loans, or pledges under RCW 43.155.070 or 70A.135.070;

(b) A consideration for grants or loans provided under RCW 43.17.250(3); or

(c) A basis for any petition under RCW 36.70A.280 or for any private cause of action.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.24.589 and 2019 c 314 s 29 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Subject to funds appropriated by the legislature, the authority shall ((~~implement a pilot project~~)) administer a grant program for law enforcement assisted diversion which shall adhere to law enforcement assisted diversion core principles recognized by the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau, the efficacy of which have been demonstrated in peer-reviewed research studies.

(2) ((~~Under the pilot project, the~~)) The authority must partner with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau to award ((~~a contract~~)) contracts, subject to appropriation, for ((~~two or more geographic areas~~)) jurisdictions in the state of Washington for law enforcement assisted diversion. Cities, counties, and tribes ((~~may compete for participation in a pilot project~~)), subdivisions thereof, public development authorities, and community-based organizations demonstrating support from necessary public partners, may serve as the lead agency applying for funding. Funds may be used to scale existing projects, and to invite additional jurisdictions to launch law enforcement assisted diversion programs.

(3) The ((~~pilot projects~~)) program must provide for securing comprehensive technical assistance from law enforcement assisted diversion implementation experts to develop and implement a law enforcement assisted diversion program ((~~in the pilot project's geographic areas~~)) in a way that ensures fidelity to the research-based law enforcement assisted diversion model. Sufficient funds must be allocated from grant program funds to secure technical assistance for the authority and for the implementing jurisdictions.

(4) The key elements of a law enforcement assisted diversion ((~~pilot project~~)) program must include:

(a) Long-term case management for individuals with substance use disorders;

(b) Facilitation and coordination with community resources focusing on overdose prevention;

(c) Facilitation and coordination with community resources focused on the prevention of infectious disease transmission;

(d) Facilitation and coordination with community resources providing physical and behavioral health services;

(e) Facilitation and coordination with community resources providing medications for the treatment of substance use disorders;

(f) Facilitation and coordination with community resources focusing on housing, employment, and public assistance;

(g) ((~~Twenty-four~~)) 24 hours per day and seven days per week response to law enforcement for arrest diversions; and

(h) Prosecutorial support for diversion services.

(5) No civil liability may be imposed by any court on the state or its officers or employees, an appointed or elected official, public employee, public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470, combination of units of government and its employees as provided in RCW 36.28A.010, nonprofit community-based organization, tribal government entity, tribal organization, or urban Indian organization, based on the administration of a law enforcement assisted diversion program or activities carried out within the purview of a grant received under this program except upon proof of bad faith or gross negligence.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.24.590 and 2019 c 314 s 30 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) When making a decision on an application for licensing or certification of ((~~a~~)) an opioid treatment program, the department shall:

(a) Consult with the county legislative authorities in the area in which an applicant proposes to locate a program and the city legislative authority in any city in which an applicant proposes to locate a program;

(b) License or certify only programs that will be sited in accordance with the appropriate county or city land use ordinances. Counties and cities may require conditional use permits with reasonable conditions for the siting of programs only to the extent that such reasonable conditional use requirements applied to opioid treatment programs are similarly applied to other essential public facilities and health care settings. Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.200, no local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities;

(c) Not discriminate in its licensing or certification decision on the basis of the corporate structure of the applicant;

(d) Consider the size of the population in need of treatment in the area in which the program would be located and license or certify only applicants whose programs meet the necessary treatment needs of that population;

(e) Consider the availability of other certified opioid treatment programs near the area in which the applicant proposes to locate the program;

(f) Consider the transportation systems that would provide service to the program and whether the systems will provide reasonable opportunities to access the program for persons in need of treatment;

(g) Consider whether the applicant has, or has demonstrated in the past, the capability to provide the appropriate services to assist the persons who utilize the program in meeting goals established by the legislature in RCW 71.24.585. The department shall prioritize licensing or certification to applicants who have demonstrated such capability and are able to measure their success in meeting such outcomes;

(h) Hold one public hearing in the community in which the facility is proposed to be located. The hearing shall be held at a time and location that are most likely to permit the largest number of interested persons to attend and present testimony. The department shall notify all appropriate media outlets of the time, date, and location of the hearing at least three weeks in advance of the hearing.

(2) ((~~A~~)) No city or county legislative authority may impose a maximum capacity for ((~~a~~)) an opioid treatment program ((~~of not less than three hundred fifty participants if necessary to address specific local conditions cited by the county~~)).

(3) A program applying for licensing or certification from the department and a program applying for a contract from a state agency that has been denied the licensing or certification or contract shall be provided with a written notice specifying the rationale and reasons for the denial.

(4) Opioid treatment programs may order, possess, dispense, and administer medications approved by the United States food and drug administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder, alcohol use disorder, tobacco use disorder, and reversal of opioid overdose. For an opioid treatment program to order, possess, and dispense any other legend drug, including controlled substances, the opioid treatment program must obtain additional licensure as required by the department, except for patient-owned medications.

(5) Opioid treatment programs may accept, possess, and administer patient-owned medications.

(6) Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses may dispense up to a ((~~thirty-one~~)) 31 day supply of medications approved by the United States food and drug administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder to patients of the opioid treatment program, under an order or prescription and in compliance with 42 C.F.R. Sec. 8.12.

(7) For the purpose of this chapter, "opioid treatment program" means a program that:

(a) Engages in the treatment of opioid use disorder with medications approved by the United States food and drug administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder and reversal of opioid overdose, including methadone; and

(b) Provides a comprehensive range of medical and rehabilitative services.

(8) A mobile or fixed-site medication unit may be established as part of a licensed opioid treatment program.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, a program is established in the department to fund the construction costs necessary to start up substance use disorder treatment programs in regions of the state that currently lack access to such programs.

(2) This funding must be used to increase the number of substance use disorder treatment programs in underserved areas such as central and eastern Washington and rural areas.

**Sec.**  RCW 10.31.110 and 2021 c 311 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has committed acts constituting a crime, and the individual is known by history or consultation with the behavioral health administrative services organization, managed care organization, crisis hotline, local crisis services providers, or community health providers to have a mental disorder or substance use disorder, in addition to existing authority under state law or local policy, as an alternative to arrest, the arresting officer is authorized and encouraged to:

(a) Take the individual to a crisis stabilization unit as defined in RCW 71.05.020. Individuals delivered to a crisis stabilization unit pursuant to this section may be held by the facility for a period of up to twelve hours. The individual must be examined by a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional within three hours of arrival;

(b) Take the individual to a triage facility as defined in RCW 71.05.020. An individual delivered to a triage facility which has elected to operate as an involuntary facility may be held up to a period of twelve hours. The individual must be examined by a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional within three hours of arrival;

(c) Refer the individual to a designated crisis responder for evaluation for initial detention and proceeding under chapter 71.05 RCW;

(d) Release the individual upon agreement to voluntary participation in outpatient treatment;

(e) Refer the individual to youth, adult, or geriatric mobile crisis response services, as appropriate; or

(f) Refer the individual to the regional entity responsible to receive referrals in lieu of legal system involvement, including the recovery navigator program described in RCW 71.24.115.

(2) If the individual is released to the community from the facilities in subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section, the mental health provider or substance use disorder professional shall make reasonable efforts to inform the arresting officer of the planned release prior to release if the arresting officer has specifically requested notification and provided contact information to the provider.

(3) In deciding whether to refer the individual to treatment under this section, the police officer must be guided by local law enforcement diversion guidelines for behavioral health developed and mutually agreed upon with the prosecuting authority with an opportunity for consultation and comment by the defense bar and disability community. These guidelines must address, at a minimum, the length, seriousness, and recency of the known criminal history of the individual, the mental health history of the individual, if available, the substance use disorder history of the individual, if available, the opinions of a mental health professional, if available, the opinions of a substance use disorder professional, if available, and the circumstances surrounding the commission of the alleged offense. The guidelines must include a process for clearing outstanding warrants or referring the individual for assistance in clearing outstanding warrants, if any, and issuing a new court date, if appropriate, without booking or incarcerating the individual or disqualifying the individual from referral to treatment under this section, and define the circumstances under which such action is permissible. Referrals to services, care, and treatment for substance use disorder must be made in accordance with protocols developed for the recovery navigator program described in RCW 71.24.115.

(4) Any agreement to participate in treatment or services in lieu of jail booking or referring a case for prosecution shall not require individuals to stipulate to any of the alleged facts regarding the criminal activity as a prerequisite to participation in the alternative response described in this section. Any agreement is inadmissible in any criminal or civil proceeding. Such agreements do not create immunity from prosecution for the alleged criminal activity.

(5) If there are required terms of participation in the services or treatment to which an individual was referred under this section, and if the individual violates such terms and is therefore no longer participating in services:

(a) The behavioral health or service provider shall inform the referring law enforcement agency of the violation, if consistent with ((~~the terms of the program and~~)) applicable law; and

(b) The original charges may be filed or referred to the prosecutor, as appropriate, and the matter may proceed accordingly((~~, unless filing or referring the charges is inconsistent with the terms of a local diversion program or a recovery navigator program described in RCW 71.24.115~~)).

(6) The police officer is immune from liability for any good faith conduct under this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  RCW 10.31.115 (Drug possession—Referral to assessment and services) and 2021 c 311 s 13 are each repealed.

**Part V – Providing Legal Advocacy for Parents and Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders in Dependency and Child Custody Cases**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 26.12 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In any parenting plan or child custody proceeding in which the court determines that a child's parent, guardian, or custodian is affected by substance use disorders, mental health disorders, or behavioral health concerns such that it leaves the parent, guardian, or custodian unable to adequately represent his or her own interests or his or her parental rights may be restricted, either by way of long-term supervision or limited contact with the child, the parent, guardian, or custodian may have the right to court-appointed counsel, who, if appropriate, must have understanding of the Indian child welfare act and knowledge about tribal child welfare systems. In determining whether to appoint counsel, the court must consider the financial ability of the parties, the degree such disorder impacts the ability of the parent, guardian, or custodian to understand the proceedings and represent their own interests, and any professional assessment or evaluation or any other evidence submitted to the court on the parent, guardian, or custodian's behalf.

(2) The court may, in its discretion, appoint counsel for the child or a guardian ad litem as set forth in RCW 26.09.110 and 26.09.220.

**Part VI – Funding, Promotion, and Training for Recovery Residences**

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

Subject to the availability of amounts provided for this specific purpose, the authority shall:

(1) Make sufficient funding available to support establishment of an adequate and equitable stock of recovery residences in each region of the state, including by expansion of a revolving fund program to make loans or grants available for recovery residence operators to use for necessary capital expenses;

(2) Establish a voucher program to allow accredited recovery housing operators to hold bed space for individuals who are waiting for treatment or who have returned to use and need a place to stay while negotiating a return to stable housing;

(3) Conduct outreach to underserved and rural areas to support the development of recovery housing, including adequate resources for women, LGBTQIA+ communities, and youth; and

(4) Develop a training for housing providers by January 1, 2024, to assist them with providing appropriate service to LGBTQIA+ communities, including consideration of topics like harassment, communication, antiracism, diversity, and gender affirming behavior, and ensure applicants for grants or loans related to recovery residences receive access to the training.

**Sec.**  RCW 84.36.043 and 1998 c 174 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The real and personal property used by a nonprofit organization in providing emergency or transitional housing for low-income homeless persons as defined in RCW 35.21.685 or 36.32.415 or victims of domestic violence who are homeless for personal safety reasons is exempt from taxation if:

(a) The charge, if any, for the housing does not exceed the actual cost of operating and maintaining the housing; and

(b)(i) The property is owned by the nonprofit organization; or

(ii) The property is rented or leased by the nonprofit organization and the benefit of the exemption inures to the nonprofit organization.

(2) The real and personal property used by a nonprofit organization in maintaining an approved recovery residence registered under RCW 41.05.760 is exempt from taxation if:

(a) The charge for the housing does not exceed the actual cost of operating and maintaining the housing; and

(b)(i) The property is owned by the nonprofit organization; or

(ii) The property is rented or leased by the nonprofit organization and the benefit of the exemption inures to the nonprofit organization.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Homeless" means persons, including families, who, on one particular day or night, do not have decent and safe shelter nor sufficient funds to purchase or rent a place to stay.

(b) "Emergency housing" means a project that provides housing and supportive services to homeless persons or families for up to sixty days.

(c) "Transitional housing" means a project that provides housing and supportive services to homeless persons or families for up to two years and that has as its purpose facilitating the movement of homeless persons and families into independent living.

((~~(3)~~)) (d) "Recovery residence" has the same meaning as under RCW 41.05.760.

(4) The exemption in subsection (2) of this section applies to taxes levied for collection in calendar years 2024 through 2033.

(5) This exemption is subject to the administrative provisions contained in RCW 84.36.800 through 84.36.865.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) This section is the tax preference performance statement for the tax preference contained in section 21, chapter . . ., Laws of 2023 (section 21 of this act). This performance statement is only intended to be used for subsequent evaluation of the tax preference. It is not intended to create a private right of action by any party or to be used to determine eligibility for preferential tax treatment.

(2) The legislature categorizes this tax preference as one intended to provide tax relief for certain businesses or individuals, as indicated in RCW 82.32.808(2)(e).

(3) By exempting property used by nonprofit organizations maintaining approved recovery residences, it is the legislature's specific public policy objective to maximize funding for recovery residences to the extent possible, thereby increasing availability of such residences.

(4) To measure the effectiveness of the tax exemption provided in section 21 of this act in achieving the specific public policy objectives described in subsection (3) of this section, the joint legislative audit and review committee must evaluate:

(a) Annual changes in the total number of parcels qualifying for the exemption under section 21 of this act;

(b) The amount of annual property tax relief resulting from the tax exemption under section 21 of this act;

(c) The average annual number of people housed at recovery residences located on property qualifying for the exemption under section 21 of this act;

(d) The annualized amount charged for housing at recovery residences located on property qualifying for the exemption under section 21 of this act and the annualized estimated increase in the charge for housing if the properties had not been eligible for the exemption; and

(e) The annual amount of expenditures by nonprofits to maintain recovery residences located on property qualifying for the exemption under section 21 of this act.

(5) The legislature intends to extend the expiration date of the property tax exemption under section 21 of this act if the review by the joint legislative audit and review committee finds that:

(a) The number of properties qualifying for the exemption under section 21 of this act has increased;

(b) The number of individuals using recovery housing located on property qualifying for the exemption under section 21 of this act has increased; and

(c) The amount charged for recovery housing is reasonably consistent with the actual cost of operating and maintaining the housing.

(6) In order to obtain the data necessary to perform the review in subsection (4) of this section, the joint legislative audit and review committee may refer to:

(a) Initial applications for the tax exemption under section 21 of this act as approved by the department of revenue under RCW 84.36.815;

(b) Annual financial statements prepared by nonprofit entities claiming the tax exemption under section 21 of this act;

(c) Filings with the federal government to maintain federal tax exempt status by nonprofit organizations claiming the tax exemption under section 21 of this act; and

(d) Any other data necessary for the evaluation under subsection (4) of this section.

**Part VII – Training for Parents of Children with Substance Use Disorder and Caseworkers Within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.216 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The health care authority in consultation with the department shall develop a training for parents of children and transition age youth with substance use disorders by June 30, 2024, addressing the following:

(a) Science and education related to substance use disorders;

(b) Adaptive and functional communication strategies for communication with a loved one about their substance use disorder, including positive communication skills and strategies to influence motivation and behavioral change;

(c) Self-care and means of obtaining support; and

(d) Means to obtain opioid overdose reversal medication when appropriate and instruction on proper use.

(2) The health care authority and the department shall make this training publicly available and the department must promote the training to licensed foster parents and caregivers, including any tribally licensed foster parents and tribal caregivers.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.216 RCW to read as follows:

The department must make opioid overdose reversal medication available for use by caseworkers or employees that may come in contact with individuals experiencing overdose and must make appropriate training available.

**Part VIII – Data Support for Recovery Navigator Programs**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  To support recovery navigator programs, the health care authority must develop and implement a data integration platform by June 30, 2024, to serve as a common database for diversion efforts across the state, to serve as a data collection and management tool for practitioners, and to assist in standardizing definitions and practices. If possible, the health care authority must leverage and interact with existing platforms already in use in efforts funded by the authority. The health care authority must establish a quality assurance process for behavioral health administrative services organizations, and employ data validation for fields in the data collection workbook.

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

(1) The authority shall contract with the Washington state institute for public policy to conduct a study of the long-term effectiveness of the recovery navigator program under RCW 71.24.115 with reports due by June 30th in the years 2028, 2033, and 2038. The Washington state institute for public policy shall collaborate with the authority and substance use recovery services advisory committee under RCW 71.24.546 on the topic of data collection and to determine the parameters of the report, which shall include recommendations, if any, for modification and improvement of the recovery navigator program. The authority shall cooperate with the Washington state institute for public policy to provide data for this report.

(2) The authority shall establish an expedited preapproval process by August 1, 2023, which allows requests for the use of data to be forwarded to the Washington state institutional review board without delay when the request is made by the Washington state institute for public policy for the purpose of completing a study that has been directed by the legislature.

**Part IX – Establishing Rules and Payment Structures for Health Engagement Hubs**

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

(1) The authority shall develop payment structures for health engagement hubs by January 1, 2025.

(2) A health engagement hub:

(a) Serves as an all-in-one location where people who use drugs can access a range of medical, harm reduction, treatment, and social services. A health engagement hub may not provide supervised injection services;

(b) May be affiliated with existing syringe service programs, federally qualified health centers, community health centers, overdose prevention sites, safe consumption sites, patient-centered medical homes, tribal behavioral health programs, peer run organizations such as clubhouses, services for unhoused people, supportive housing, and opioid treatment programs including mobile and fixed-site medication units established under an opioid treatment program, or other appropriate entity;

(c) Provides referrals or access to methadone and other medications for opioid addiction;

(d) Functions as a patient-centered medical home by offering high-quality, cost-effective patient-centered care, including wound care;

(e) Provides harm reduction services and supplies;

(f) Provides linkage to housing, transportation, and other support services; and

(g) Is open to youth as well as adults.

(3) To the extent allowed under federal law, the authority shall direct medicaid managed care organizations to adopt a value-based bundled payment methodology in contracts with health engagement hubs and other opioid treatment providers.

(4) The authority shall make sufficient funding available to ensure that a health engagement hub is available within a two-hour drive for all communities and that there is at least one health engagement hub available per 200,000 residents in Washington state.

**Part X – Education and Employment Pathways**

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

Subject to funding provided for this specific purpose, the authority shall establish a grant program for providers of employment, education, training, certification, and other supportive programs designed to provide persons recovering from a substance use disorder with employment opportunities. The grant program shall employ a low-barrier application and give priority to programs that engage with black, indigenous, persons of color, and other historically underserved communities.

**Part XI – Providing a Statewide Directory of Recovery Services**

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

Subject to funding provided for this specific purpose, the authority must collaborate with the department and the department of social and health services to expand the Washington recovery helpline and the recovery readiness asset tool to provide a dynamically updated statewide behavioral health treatment and recovery support services mapping tool that includes a robust resource database for those seeking services and a referral system to be incorporated within the locator tool to help facilitate the connection between an individual and a facility that is currently accepting new referrals. The tool must include dual interface capability, one for public access and one for internal use and management.

**Part XII – Investing Adequately in Statewide Diversion Services**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) It is the intent of the legislature to increase investments in the 2023-2025 biennium substantially over baseline levels established in the 2021-2023 operating and capital budgets to increase the provision of evidence-based prearrest and prefiling diversion programs in all regions of the state. Services which shall be increased and included in every health purchasing region include crisis stabilization units, 23-hour crisis relief centers, mobile crisis response services for youth and adults, recovery navigator programs, and law enforcement assisted diversion.

(2) The appropriations in this subsection are provided to the state health care authority and are subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(a) The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are each appropriated: $18,114,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and $16,437,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The amounts in this subsection are provided solely for the authority to continue and expand efforts to provide opioid use disorder medication in city, county, regional, and tribal jails.

(b) The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are each appropriated: $3,500,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and $3,500,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The amounts in this subsection are provided solely for the authority to provide support funds to new and established clubhouses throughout the state.

(c) The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are each appropriated: $1,583,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and $1,583,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The amounts in this subsection are provided solely for the authority to award grants to crisis services providers to establish and expand 23-hour crisis relief center capacity. It is the intent of the legislature that grants are awarded to an equivalent number of providers to the west and the east of the Cascade mountains. The authority must consider the geographic distribution of proposed grant applicants and the regional need for 23-hour crisis relief centers when awarding grant funds.

(d) The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are each appropriated: $900,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; $900,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and $1,800,000 from the state general fund—federal for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025. The amounts in this subsection are provided solely for the authority to maintain a memorandum of understanding with the criminal justice training commission to provide ongoing funding for community grants pursuant to RCW 36.28A.450.

(e) The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are each appropriated: $1,250,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; $1,250,000 from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and $2,500,000 from the state general fund—federal for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2025. The amounts in this subsection are provided solely for the authority to provide ongoing grants to law enforcement assistant diversion programs under RCW 71.24.590.

**Part XIII – Streamlining Substance Use Disorder Treatment Intakes**

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

(1) The authority shall convene a work group to recommend changes to systems, policies, and processes related to intake, screening, and assessment for substance use disorder services, with the goal to broaden the workforce capable of processing intakes and to make the intake process as brief as possible, including only what is necessary to manage utilization and initiate care. The intake shall be low barrier, person-centered, and amenable to administration in diverse health care settings and by a range of health care professionals. The intake assessment shall consider the person's self-identified needs and preferences when evaluating direction of treatment and may include different components based on the setting, context, and past experience with the client.

(2) The work group must include care providers, payors, people who use drugs, and other individuals recommended by the authority. The work group shall present its recommendations to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2024.

**Part XIV - Miscellaneous Provisions**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Section 7 of this act takes effect January 1, 2025.

**Sec.**  2021 c 311 s 29 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

Sections 8 through 10((~~,~~)) and 12((~~, 15, and 16~~)) of this act expire July 1, 2023.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 2, 6, 8 through 12, and 33 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect July 1, 2023.

**--- END ---**