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**SENATE BILL 6125**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kauffman, Frame, Wellman, Trudeau, J. Wilson, Conway, Kuderer, Lovick, Nguyen, Nobles, Saldaña, Valdez, Wagoner, and C. Wilson

AN ACT Relating to preserving records and artifacts regarding the historical treatment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Washington state; adding a new section to chapter 40.14 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature recognizes that in 2023, numerous records and artifacts were discovered at Lakeland Village, a state-operated facility originally established in 1916 to serve individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The collection of items discovered includes an unknown number of medical records, letters, images, films, and historical artifacts, including letters from family members, artifacts that capture important events, such as props from theater plays, and images of daily life. The legislature finds that preserving historical records and artifacts is crucial to understanding our past treatment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to shaping our future. Some of the records and artifacts highlight a darker story of medical sterilization and medical restraint.

Therefore, the legislature finds and declares that the Washington state archives shall work with the University of Washington institute on human development and disability to catalogue and preserve such records and artifacts for the purpose of sharing this important history with all Washingtonians and that moving forward the state intends to work directly with those with lived experience to shape future policies and enhance service delivery with the goal of better outcomes for those individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 40.14 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The division of archives and records management, working with the University of Washington institute on human development and disability, and in consultation with the department of social and health services and the office of archaeology and historic preservation, shall organize, catalogue, and store historical documents and artifacts identified at Lakeland Village, a state-operated facility. Historical documents and artifacts may include but are not limited to medical records, letters, images, films, and artifacts of past residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities at Lakeland Village.

(2) Working in consultation with the division, the University of Washington shall:

(a) Identify all the records and artifacts that are available and at risk of destruction;

(b) Assess the condition of the records and artifacts and level of preservation required, including but not limited to the age of the record, the material used, and environmental conditions in which the items have been stored; and

(c) Develop a preservation plan outlining the steps that will be taken to preserve the records and artifacts. This includes how the records will be stored, where they will be stored, how they will be handled and transported, how they will be restored if they are in danger of falling into disrepair, dysfunction, or destruction, and how they will be digitized. The preservation plan shall include a timeline for the preservation work and an overall budget for the work.

(3) Based on the plan approved by the division, records will be transported and stored in preparation for cataloging and digitization. Records must then be cataloged, digitized, and transferred to archival microfilm for long-term access.

(4) All records and artifacts must undergo an initial historic review and documentation of materials.

(5) The plan described in this section must also include future plans for public access for historical and educational purposes.

(6) Indirect costs to the University of Washington for this project are limited to 15 percent.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2024, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

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