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**HOUSE BILL 1176**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Walsh, Corry, and Jacobsen

Prefiled 01/07/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to greater consistency in the provision of health  
2 care services for minors under the age of 17; amending RCW 70.24.110,  
3 71.34.500, 71.34.510, 71.34.520, and 71.34.530; adding a new section  
4 to chapter 9.02 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 26.28 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.24.110 and 2020 c 76 s 7 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 A minor (~~fourteen~~) 17 years of age or older who may have come  
9 in contact with any sexually transmitted disease or suspected  
10 sexually transmitted disease may give consent to the furnishing of  
11 hospital, medical, and surgical care related to the diagnosis or  
12 treatment of such disease; and treatment to avoid HIV infection. Such  
13 consent shall not be subject to disaffirmance because of minority.  
14 The consent of the parent, parents, or legal guardian of such minor  
15 shall not be necessary to authorize hospital, medical, and surgical  
16 care related to such disease, and such parent, parents, or legal  
17 guardian shall not be liable for payment for any care rendered  
18 pursuant to this section.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 71.34.500 and 2020 c 302 s 74 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1           (1) (~~An adolescent~~) A minor 17 years of age or older may admit  
2 himself or herself to an evaluation and treatment facility for  
3 inpatient mental health treatment or an approved substance use  
4 disorder treatment program for inpatient substance use disorder  
5 treatment without parental consent. The admission shall occur only if  
6 the professional person in charge of the facility concurs with the  
7 need for inpatient treatment. Parental authorization, or  
8 authorization from a person who may consent on behalf of the minor  
9 pursuant to RCW 7.70.065, is required for inpatient treatment of a  
10 minor under the age of (~~thirteen~~) 17.

11           (2) When, in the judgment of the professional person in charge of  
12 an evaluation and treatment facility or approved substance use  
13 disorder treatment program, there is reason to believe that a minor  
14 is in need of inpatient treatment because of a behavioral health  
15 disorder, and the facility provides the type of evaluation and  
16 treatment needed by the minor, and it is not feasible to treat the  
17 minor in any less restrictive setting or the minor's home, the minor  
18 may be admitted to the facility.

19           (3) Written renewal of voluntary consent must be obtained from  
20 the applicant no less than once every (~~twelve~~) 12 months. The  
21 minor's need for continued inpatient treatments shall be reviewed and  
22 documented no less than every (~~one hundred eighty~~) 180 days.

23           **Sec. 3.** RCW 71.34.510 and 2019 c 381 s 4 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25           (1) The professional person in charge of an evaluation and  
26 treatment facility shall provide notice to the parent of (~~an~~  
27 ~~adolescent~~) a minor 17 years of age or older when the (~~adolescent~~)  
28 minor is voluntarily admitted to inpatient treatment under RCW  
29 71.34.500 solely for mental health treatment and not for substance  
30 use disorder treatment, unless the professional person has a  
31 compelling reason to believe that such disclosure would be  
32 detrimental to the (~~adolescent~~) minor or contact cannot be made, in  
33 which case the professional person must document the reasons in the  
34 (~~adolescent's~~) minor's medical record.

35           (2) The professional person in charge of an evaluation and  
36 treatment facility or an approved substance use disorder treatment  
37 program shall provide notice to the parent of (~~an adolescent~~) a  
38 minor 17 years of age or older voluntarily admitted to inpatient  
39 treatment under RCW 71.34.500 for substance use disorder treatment

1 only if: (a) The (~~adolescent~~) minor provides written consent to the  
2 disclosure of the fact of admission and such other substance use  
3 disorder treatment information in the notice; or (b) permitted by  
4 federal law.

5 (3) If the professional person withholds notice to a parent under  
6 subsection (1) of this section, or such notice cannot be provided,  
7 the professional person in charge of the facility must consult the  
8 information that the Washington state patrol makes publicly available  
9 under RCW 43.43.510(2) at least once every eight hours for the first  
10 (~~seventy-two~~) 72 hours of treatment and once every (~~twenty-four~~)  
11 24 hours thereafter while the (~~adolescent~~) minor continues to  
12 receive inpatient services and until the time that the professional  
13 person contacts a parent of the (~~adolescent~~) minor. If the  
14 (~~adolescent~~) minor is publicly listed as missing, the professional  
15 person must immediately notify the department of children, youth, and  
16 families of its contact with the youth listed as missing. The  
17 notification must include a description of the (~~adolescent's~~)  
18 minor's physical and emotional condition.

19 (4) The notice required under subsections (1) and (2) of this  
20 section shall be in the form most likely to reach the parent within  
21 (~~twenty-four~~) 24 hours of the (~~adolescent's~~) minor's voluntary  
22 admission and shall advise the parent: (a) That the (~~adolescent~~)  
23 minor has been admitted to inpatient treatment; (b) of the location  
24 and telephone number of the facility providing such treatment; (c) of  
25 the name of a professional person on the staff of the facility  
26 providing treatment who is designated to discuss the (~~adolescent's~~)  
27 minor's need for inpatient treatment with the parent; and (d) of the  
28 medical necessity for admission. Notification efforts under  
29 subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall begin as soon as  
30 reasonably practicable, considering the (~~adolescent's~~) minor's  
31 immediate medical needs.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 71.34.520 and 2019 c 381 s 5 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 (1) Any (~~adolescent~~) minor 17 years of age or older voluntarily  
35 admitted to an evaluation and treatment facility or approved  
36 substance use disorder treatment program under RCW 71.34.500 may give  
37 notice of intent to leave at any time. The notice need not follow any  
38 specific form so long as it is written and the intent of the  
39 (~~adolescent~~) minor can be discerned.

1 (2) The staff member receiving the notice from a minor 17 years  
2 of age or older shall date it immediately and record its existence in  
3 the ((~~adolescent's~~)) minor's clinical record.

4 (a) If the evaluation and treatment facility is providing the  
5 ((~~adolescent~~)) minor solely with mental health treatment and not  
6 substance use disorder treatment, copies of the notice must be sent  
7 to the ((~~adolescent's~~)) minor's attorney, if any, the designated  
8 crisis responders, and the parent.

9 (b) If the evaluation and treatment facility or substance use  
10 disorder treatment program is providing the ((~~adolescent~~)) minor with  
11 substance use disorder treatment, copies of the notice must be sent  
12 to the ((~~adolescent's~~)) minor's attorney, if any, the designated  
13 crisis responders, and the parent only if: (i) The ((~~adolescent~~))  
14 minor provides written consent to the disclosure of the  
15 ((~~adolescent's~~)) minor's notice of intent to leave and such other  
16 substance use disorder information; or (ii) permitted by federal law.

17 (3) The professional person shall discharge the ((~~adolescent~~))  
18 minor 17 years of age or older from the facility by the second  
19 judicial day following receipt of the ((~~adolescent's~~)) minor's notice  
20 of intent to leave.

21 **Sec. 5.** RCW 71.34.530 and 2019 c 381 s 6 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 Any ((~~adolescent~~)) minor 17 years of age or older may request and  
24 receive outpatient treatment without the consent of the  
25 ((~~adolescent's~~)) minor's parent. Parental authorization, or  
26 authorization from a person who may consent on behalf of the minor  
27 pursuant to RCW 7.70.065, is required for outpatient treatment of a  
28 minor under the age of ((~~thirteen~~)) 17.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 9.02 RCW  
30 to read as follows:

31 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

32 (1) A parent or legal guardian of a minor under the age of 17 may  
33 not be held financially responsible for services related to an  
34 abortion received by the minor if the parent or legal guardian did  
35 not consent to such services; and

36 (2) The state may not expend any funds to permit a minor under  
37 the age of 17 to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy without the  
38 consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian, unless, as

1 determined by the reasonable, good faith clinical judgment of the  
2 patient's primary care physician, the life of the minor is in  
3 imminent danger because of a serious physical disorder, illness, or  
4 injury if the termination of the pregnancy is not performed.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 26.28  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 A minor under the age of 17 may not provide informed consent for  
8 a health care procedure unless statutorily authorized to do so under  
9 this code. The legislature hereby declares the principle of implied  
10 emancipation, also known as the mature minor rule, as articulated in  
11 *Smith v. Seibly*, 72 Wn.2d (1967), to be abolished to the extent it  
12 conflicts with this section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its  
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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