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HOUSE BILL 1897

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Obras, Farivar, Parshley, Simmons, Ryu, Fosse, Scott, Hill, and Macri

Read first time 02/07/25. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to liability protections for community public  
2 safety programs; and adding a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) No act or omission in the provision of core aspects of a  
7 community-based public safety program:

8 (a) That is provided to a person who is experiencing a behavioral  
9 health crisis, has complex behavioral health needs, or has a history  
10 of legal system involvement; and

11 (b) Which is done or omitted in good faith, shall impose  
12 liability upon any community-based public safety program or any  
13 volunteer, agent, officer, or employee of such program acting within  
14 the scope of their responsibilities.

15 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
16 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (a) "Community-based public safety program" means any  
18 organization providing community-based responses to public order  
19 issues as an alternative to jail and criminal prosecution for people  
20 whose unlawful behavior stems from unmanaged substance use, mental  
21 health challenges, or extreme poverty. "Community-based public safety

1 program" includes any organization performing a contracted role for a  
2 locally funded, state-funded, or federally funded community-based  
3 public safety program.

4 (b) "Core aspects of a community-based public safety program"  
5 means activities directly connected to the purpose of a community-  
6 based public safety program, including but not limited to outreach,  
7 case management, providing shelter, providing housing, traveling  
8 among worksites, transporting clients, and aftercare functions.

9 (3) This section does not apply to any act or omission which  
10 constitutes either gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

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