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**HOUSE BILL 1908**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Dufault, Corry, Nance, Manjarrez, Ryu, Mendoza, Stearns, Penner, Callan, Parshley, and Pollet

Read first time 02/10/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting developmentally disabled  
2 individuals and their families by maintaining the operation of  
3 existing state facilities with underutilized capacity and allowing  
4 new residents; amending RCW 71A.20.020; creating a new section; and  
5 repealing RCW 71A.20.180.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Residential habilitation centers, also  
8 known as "RHCs," like the Yakima Valley School, Rainier School,  
9 Lakeland Village, and Fircrest School provide services to some of our  
10 state's most vulnerable individuals and their families. Washington  
11 state, like much of our country, has a mental and behavioral health  
12 care crisis that is causing increased rates of homelessness and  
13 substance abuse. Existing resident and respite care RHCs in our state  
14 that are both well run and well respected by the individuals,  
15 families, and communities they serve are being underutilized. Opening  
16 these facilities to new residents will provide immediate and  
17 effective relief to dozens of developmentally disabled individuals  
18 and their families who have no other viable and cost reasonable  
19 options for care.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 71A.20.020 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 s 5 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       ~~((1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the))~~  
4 The following residential habilitation centers are permanently  
5 established to provide services to persons with developmental  
6 disabilities: Lakeland Village, located at Medical Lake, Spokane  
7 county; Rainier School, located at Buckley, Pierce county; Yakima  
8 Valley School, located at Selah, Yakima county; and Fircrest School,  
9 located at Seattle, King county.

10       ~~((2) The Yakima Valley School, located at Selah, Yakima county,~~  
11 ~~shall cease to operate as a residential habilitation center when the~~  
12 ~~conditions in RCW 71A.20.180(2)(b) are met.))~~

13       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** RCW 71A.20.180 (Closure of Yakima Valley  
14 School—Department duties—Continuation of services) and 2017 3rd  
15 sp.s. c 19 s 1 & 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 s 6 are each repealed.

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