
HOUSE BILL 1996

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Farivar, Macri, Scott, Parshley, Simmons, Thomas, and Pollet

Read first time 02/18/25. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing a qualified county to impose a tax
2 for the funding of behavioral health diversion from the criminal
3 justice system; adding a new section to chapter 82.14 RCW; and
4 providing a contingent effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The legislative authority of any county meeting the
9 requirements of subsection (3) of this section may impose a sales and
10 use tax by resolution or ordinance in accordance with the terms of
11 this chapter. The tax must be collected from those persons who are
12 taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW, upon the
13 occurrence of any taxable event within the county.

14 (2) The rate of the tax may not exceed 0.1 percent of the selling
15 price, in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in
16 the case of a use tax. However, if a county imposes the sales and use
17 tax authorized in chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1805), Laws of 2025,
18 the combined rate of both taxes may not exceed 0.1 percent.

19 (3) The county must have a behavioral health diversion plan, as
20 defined in chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1218), Laws of 2025, that is
21 approved by the secretary of the department of social and health

1 services before the adoption of the resolution or ordinance to impose
2 the tax authorized under this section.

3 (4) The proceeds of the tax imposed under this section must be
4 used for programs that either prevent individuals with behavioral
5 health needs from entering the criminal justice system or that
6 diverts these individuals away from the criminal justice system once
7 incarcerated. This includes, but is not limited to:

8 (a) Specific measures to reduce the number of individuals with
9 behavioral health needs whose highest charge is up to a class C
10 felony from entering or remaining in the criminal justice system;

11 (b) Specific measures to increase diversion of individuals with
12 behavioral health needs whose highest charge is up to a class C
13 felony away from the competency system;

14 (c) Specific measures to identify individuals for whom a court
15 has made multiple prior findings of nonrestorability, and strategies
16 to prevent future competency evaluation or restoration orders and
17 instead use diversion options for these individuals;

18 (d) Strategies to reduce recidivism for individuals with
19 behavioral health needs who are likely to be referred for a
20 competency service within the next six months based on history of
21 prior referrals, prior inpatient psychiatric treatment episodes,
22 criminal justice system involvement, or homelessness; and

23 (e) A strategic plan to create programming, supports, and
24 services along each intercept in the sequential intercept model for
25 the county.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect only if
27 chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1218), Laws of 2025 is enacted by
28 August 1, 2025.

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