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**HOUSE BILL 2202**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Penner, Dufault, Graham, and Couture

Prefiled 12/29/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a dental care pilot at the  
2 Rainier school residential habilitation center; amending RCW  
3 71A.20.191; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for  
6 this specific purpose, the department of social and health services  
7 shall establish a pilot program as described in this section to allow  
8 certain clients with developmental disabilities who live in community  
9 settings to access dental services at the Rainier school.

10 (2) To be eligible for services under the pilot, a person must  
11 have been determined to be eligible for developmental disabilities  
12 services through the department of social and health services, and:

13 (a) Have been assessed as having a high behavior acuity level, a  
14 high medical acuity level, or both, according to the developmental  
15 disabilities assessment;

16 (b) Have a documented medical history requiring general  
17 anesthesia or deep sedation to facilitate routine medical or dental  
18 treatment; or

19 (c) Have certification by the person's case manager that  
20 community dental care is unavailable due to the person's specific  
21 medical or behavioral profile.

1 (3) Dental visits may include short-term admission of no more  
2 than 24 hours. Pilot participants may use available respite hours for  
3 dental visits if authorized under the participant's home and  
4 community-based services waiver.

5 (4) The department of social and health services shall work with  
6 the health care authority to enroll the dental clinic at the Rainier  
7 school as a medicaid fee-for-service provider for the dental services  
8 provided under the pilot. Any federal matching funds for services  
9 provided under the pilot must be deposited into the state general  
10 fund.

11 (5) The pilot shall conclude by July 1, 2028. By October 1, 2028,  
12 the department of social and health services shall submit a report to  
13 the legislature, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, detailing the  
14 outcome of the pilot. The report must include:

15 (a) The number of people served by the pilot;

16 (b) A description of successes of, and obstacles encountered by,  
17 the pilot;

18 (c) A description of any administrative or billing complications,  
19 with suggestions as to how to resolve these complications; and

20 (d) Perceived ongoing need for this service model to serve this  
21 population.

22 (6) This section expires July 1, 2029.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 71A.20.191 and 2025 c 410 s 2 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, as  
26 of July 27, 2025, no new long-term admissions are permitted at the  
27 Rainier school, located at Buckley, Pierce county.

28 (b) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and  
29 section 1 of this act, as of June 30, 2027, no admissions of any kind  
30 are permitted at the Rainier school, located at Buckley, Pierce  
31 county.

32 (2) Until the conditions in subsection (5) of this section are  
33 met, a former long-term resident of the Rainier school who moves to a  
34 community-based setting after July 27, 2025, shall be offered the  
35 right to return to the Rainier school once during the first year  
36 following their move to the community and this shall not be  
37 considered a new admission for purposes of subsection (1) of this  
38 section. If a former resident of the Rainier school exercises the  
39 right to return established in this subsection (2), any additional

1 request to return to the Rainier school after a second move to the  
2 community shall be reviewed by the department and must be approved by  
3 the secretary, based on the recommendation from a multidisciplinary  
4 care team. In addition to the right to return established in this  
5 subsection (2), any former resident of the Rainier school maintains  
6 the right to return to a residential habilitation center established  
7 in RCW 71A.18.040 and the right to residential habilitation center  
8 services when determined eligible.

9 (3) (a) The department shall:

10 (i) Provide state-operated living alternatives to residential  
11 habilitation center residents transitioning to the community from the  
12 Rainier school who prefer a state-operated community residential  
13 service;

14 (ii) Use supported living program and adult family home capacity  
15 in the community for residents of the Rainier school who prefer and  
16 choose these settings;

17 (iii) Provide space at other residential habilitation centers to  
18 residents of the Rainier school who prefer a different residential  
19 habilitation center setting; and

20 (iv) Offer employees of the Rainier school opportunities to work  
21 in state-operated living alternatives and other state facilities and  
22 programs.

23 (b) Sufficient funding shall be appropriated to the department to  
24 fulfill the requirements of this subsection (3).

25 (4) When assisting individuals who are transitioning out of the  
26 Rainier school the department shall:

27 (a) Offer each individual resident a meaningful choice of  
28 appropriate alternative placements;

29 (b) Prioritize client choice, autonomy, individual preferences,  
30 medical and behavioral health care needs, and opportunities for  
31 community integration;

32 (c) Develop individualized transition plans in collaboration with  
33 each resident and their family or legal guardian, caregivers, and  
34 support providers;

35 (d) Coordinate closely with other state agencies, local entities,  
36 health care providers, and community stakeholders to ensure seamless  
37 transitions;

38 (e) Provide or contract for all necessary assessments, planning,  
39 relocation expenses, housing modifications, staff training, crisis  
40 support, and related transition activities; and

1 (f) Implement robust oversight and accountability measures  
2 related to the transitions, and regularly monitor transition  
3 outcomes, as well as individual well-being and satisfaction.

4 (5) The Rainier school, located at Buckley, Pierce county shall  
5 continue to operate as a residential habilitation center until such  
6 time that the census of long-term residents has reached zero persons.

7 (6) "Closure" for purposes of chapter 410, Laws of 2025 means  
8 prohibiting new admissions as described in subsection (1) of this  
9 section.

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