

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 2254

Chapter 58, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature
2026 Regular Session

PARTNERSHIP ACCESS LINE ASSESSMENT—ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2026

Passed by the House February 10, 2026
Yeas 96 Nays 0

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2026
Yeas 49 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Approved March 16, 2026 10:14 AM

BOB FERGUSON

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 2254** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 17, 2026

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 2254

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Callan, Eslick, Reed, Zahn, Thomas, Ormsby, Macri, Fosse, Bergquist, and Thai; by request of Health Care Authority

Prefiled 01/05/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing flexibility in the partnership
2 access line assessment to cover administrative costs; and amending
3 RCW 71.24.064.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.24.064 and 2024 c 358 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning July 1, 2021, the partnership access lines
8 described in RCW 71.24.061(3)(a), the psychiatric consultation line
9 described in RCW 71.24.062, and the first approach skills training
10 program described in RCW 71.24.061(3)(a)(iv) shall be funded as
11 follows:

12 (a) The authority, in consultation with the University of
13 Washington department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and
14 Seattle children's hospital shall determine the annual costs of
15 operating each program, as well as the authority's costs for
16 administering the programs.

17 (b) For each program, the authority shall calculate the
18 proportion of clients that are covered by programs administered
19 pursuant to chapter 74.09 RCW. The state must cover the cost for
20 programs administered pursuant to chapter 74.09 RCW through state and
21 federal funds, as appropriated.

1 (c) (i) The authority shall collect a proportional share of
2 program costs from each of the following entities that are not for
3 covered lives under contract with the authority as medicaid managed
4 care organizations:

5 (A) Health carriers, as defined in RCW 48.43.005;

6 (B) Self-funded multiple employer welfare arrangements, as
7 defined in RCW 48.125.010;

8 (C) Employers or other entities that provide health care in this
9 state, including self-funding entities or employee welfare benefit
10 plans.

11 (ii) For entities listed in (c)(i) of this subsection, a
12 proportional share of the entity's annual program costs for each
13 program must be calculated by determining the annual cost of
14 operating the program not covered under (b) of this subsection and
15 multiplying it by a fraction that in which the numerator is the
16 entity's total number of resident insured persons among the
17 population served by the program and the denominator is the total
18 number of residents in the state who are served by the program and
19 not covered by programs administered pursuant to chapter 74.09 RCW.
20 The total number of resident insured persons among the population
21 served by the program shall be determined according to the covered
22 lives per calendar year determined by covered person months.

23 (iii) The entities listed in (c)(i) of this subsection shall
24 provide information needed to calculate the proportional share of
25 program costs under this section to the authority.

26 ~~((d) The authority's administrative costs for these programs may
27 not be included in the assessments.))~~

28 (iv) Reasonable costs for the administration of the assessment by
29 a contracted third-party administrator may be included in the total
30 assessment on the entities listed in (c)(i) of this subsection as
31 part of the proportional share calculation. The authority's other
32 administrative costs for these programs may not be included in the
33 assessments.

34 (2) The authority may contract with a third-party administrator
35 to calculate and administer the assessments of the entities
36 identified in subsection (1)(c)(i) of this section.

37 (3) The authority shall develop separate performance measures for
38 the partnership access lines described in RCW 71.24.061(3)(a), and
39 the psychiatric consultation line described in RCW 71.24.062.

1 (4) The University of Washington department of psychiatry and
2 behavioral sciences, in coordination with any hospital that it
3 collaborates with to administer the programs, shall provide quarterly
4 reports to the authority on the demographic data collected by each
5 program, as described in RCW 71.24.063 (1) and (2), any performance
6 measures specified by the authority, and systemic barriers to
7 services, as determined and defined by the authority, the University
8 of Washington, and Seattle children's hospital.

Passed by the House February 10, 2026.

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2026.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 2026.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 17, 2026.

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