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HOUSE BILL 1197

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Tarleton

1 AN ACT Relating to respite services for caregivers of people with  
2 mental illness; adding a new section to chapter 71.05 RCW; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) By October 1, 2017, the department shall establish up to  
8 three pilot projects to offer respite services to primary caregivers  
9 of people with severe mental illness. The respite services must be  
10 provided by individuals qualified to meet the needs of the person  
11 receiving care, as determined by the department. Respite services may  
12 be provided on either a planned or emergent basis and may be provided  
13 in the home of the primary caregiver, the home of the person  
14 receiving care, or in the facility of a mental health service  
15 provider.

16 (2) The three participating counties must be willing to  
17 participate and be:

18 (a) A county with a population of at least four hundred thousand  
19 located in a behavioral health organization that is an early adopter  
20 of fully integrated purchasing of medical and behavioral health  
21 services under RCW 71.24.380(6);

1 (b) A county with a population of at least four hundred thousand  
2 located in a behavioral health organization that is comprised of at  
3 least seven counties; and

4 (c) A county with a population between one hundred thousand and  
5 two hundred fifty thousand that is part of a behavioral health  
6 organization with fewer than five counties that borders the Puget  
7 Sound.

8 (3) The department shall submit a report on the results of the  
9 pilot projects to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
10 legislature by November 15, 2019. The report must summarize findings,  
11 including the number of individuals served, the number of caregivers  
12 receiving support, and the characteristics and needs of individuals  
13 served. The report must also identify any recommendations related to  
14 the benefits of respite services to primary caregivers and to persons  
15 receiving care, the most appropriate use and cost-effectiveness of  
16 different care settings, and a summary of the cost of the program and  
17 any estimated savings and an estimate of the costs and savings  
18 associated with making the program available statewide.

19 (4) For the purposes of this section, "respite services" means  
20 services that provide observation, direct support, and monitoring to  
21 meet the physical, emotional, social, and mental health needs of a  
22 person receiving care by individuals providing temporary care other  
23 than the primary caregivers.

24 (5) This section expires June 30, 2020.

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