
SENATE BILL 5159

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Baumgartner, O'Ban, and Conway

1 AN ACT Relating to community safety at eastern and western state
2 hospitals; adding new sections to chapter 72.23 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the cities
6 where eastern and western state hospitals are located provide vital
7 services to the hospitals to maintain patient and community safety.
8 In particular, the legislature recognizes that the community policing
9 program at western state hospital facilitates a safer community and
10 increased communication between the hospital and the community. The
11 legislature also recognizes that state hospitals are exempt from
12 paying property taxes to support these services. Historically, when
13 funded, these services have been funded through individual budget
14 provisos directing state funding to the cities. The legislature
15 recognizes that this budgeting approach is an unreliable and
16 inconsistent manner in which to fund public and community safety
17 services. Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to establish a
18 permanent funding mechanism for these services by directing eastern
19 and western state hospitals to enter into contracts with the cities
20 in which they are located.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 72.23
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Western state hospital and eastern state hospital shall each
4 enter into a contract with the city where the respective hospitals
5 are located to compensate the city for providing public safety
6 services, including but not limited to 911 response service and
7 police calls.

8 (2) Beginning in the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, each contract
9 described in subsection (1) of this section shall be equal to nine
10 cents per square foot of the respective state hospital. In each
11 subsequent fiscal biennium, the hospital shall make adjustments for
12 any changes in square footage.

13 (3) The cities may not bond the revenue allocated in the
14 contracts outlined in this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 72.23
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) Western state hospital shall enter into a contract with the
18 city in which it is located for the provision of community policing
19 services at the hospital and in the surrounding areas.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section, community policing services
21 include, but are not limited to, dedicated police personnel whose
22 specific duties are to provide response, reporting, and investigative
23 services above and beyond the basic patrol response, to proactively
24 address public safety issues at the hospital through interaction with
25 the public about incidents relating to the state hospital, to
26 investigate complaints of patient and staff-related incidents, and to
27 conduct training for hospital staff.

28 (3) Beginning in the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, the contract
29 described in subsection (1) of this section must be no less than six
30 hundred twenty-one thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars. In each
31 subsequent fiscal biennium, the hospital shall make adjustments for
32 inflation.

33 (4) The city shall not bond the revenue allocated in the contract
34 outlined in this section.

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