

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5599

As of February 3, 2023

Title: An act relating to supporting youth and young adults seeking protected health care services.

Brief Description: Supporting youth and young adults seeking protected health care services.

Sponsors: Senators Liias, Wilson, C., Dhingra, Lovelett, Nguyen and Randall.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services: 2/06/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that a shelter for runaway or homeless youth does not need to contact the parents, law enforcement, or the Department of Children, Youth and Families if there is a compelling reason not to.
- Allows host homes to house youth without parental permission if a youth is seeking or receiving protected health care services.
- Appropriates \$7.5 million to the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection for providing access to supportive care grants to organizations in order to address the needs of youth and young adults seeking protected health care services.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7488)

Background: Youth Shelters. Any person, unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program that provides shelter to a minor without legal authorization, and knows at the time of providing shelter that youth is away from home without parental permission, is to report the location of the child to the parent, law enforcement, or the

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Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

If a licensed overnight shelter or licensed organization provides services to homeless or runaway youth and their families, shelters a youth and knows that the child is away from home without parental permission, it must contact the youth's parents within 72 hours, but preferably in 24 hours. If there are compelling reasons to not notify the parents, the shelter or organization is to contact DCYF instead. Compelling reasons include, but are not limited to circumstances that indicate notifying the parent or legal guardian will subject the minor to abuse or neglect.

Host Homes. A host home program operated by a tax exempt organization for youth not in the care of or receiving services from DCYF does the following:

- recruits and screens potential homes in the program, including performing background checks on individuals over the age of 18 residing in the home, through the Washington State Patrol or equivalent law enforcement agency, and performs physical inspections of the home;
- obtains a notarized permission slip or limited power of attorney from the parent or legal guardian of the youth, authorizing the youth to participate in the program, and the authorization is updated every six months;
- obtains insurance for the program through an authorized insurance provider;
- provides mandatory reporter and confidentiality training; and
- registers with the Secretary of State.

Host home means a private home that volunteers to host youth in need of temporary placement that is associated with a host home program.

Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection. Created in 2015, the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection leads statewide efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness for youth and young adults through priority service areas to ensure youth and young adults have stable housing, family reconciliation, permanent connections, education and employment, and social and emotional well-being.

Summary of Bill: Any person, unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway or homeless youth program that provides shelter to a minor that knows the minor is away from lawfully prescribed residence without parental permission, is to promptly report the location of the minor to law enforcement or DCYF, unless there is a compelling reason not to, at least once every eight hours after learning a youth is away from home without permission. Compelling reasons include when a minor is seeking or receiving protected health care services.

Host homes do not need parent or legal guardian authorization if there is a compelling reason not to contact the parent or guardian. Compelling reason means that youth is in the host home or seeking placement in a host home to receive protected health care services.

An appropriation of \$7,500,000 dollars, or as much thereof as may be needed, for the fiscal

biennium ending June 30, 2023 is made to the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Program for providing access to supportive care grants to organizations to address the needs of youth and young adults seeking protected health care services. The access to supportive care grants may include access to behavioral health services, peer navigation and support, employment support, education support, case management, advocacy outreach, housing and financial support or other navigation support to secure safe and stable housing, including the use of host homes.

Protected health care services means gender-affirming treatment and reproductive health care services that are lawful in the state of Washington. Gender-affirming treatment means health services or products that support and affirm an individual's gender identity, including social, psychological, behavioral, and medical or surgical interventions. Gender-affirming care services include, but are not limited to, evaluation and treatments for gender dysphoria, gender-affirming hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgical procedures. Reproductive health care services means all services, care, or products of a medical, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, mental health, behavioral health, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative, supportive, counseling, referral, prescribing, or dispensing nature relating to the human reproductive system including, but not limited to, all services, care, and products relating to pregnancy, assisted reproduction, contraception, miscarriage management, or the termination of a pregnancy, including self-managed terminations.

Appropriation: The bill contains an appropriation totaling \$7,500,000.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 26, 2023.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.